

MPs favour £1,000m single rail tunnel, convertible for vehicles, as best Channel link

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

A single tube rail tunnel costing about £1,000m is the firm choice of the Commons select committee on a Channel link whose report was published yesterday.

But while such a tunnel should be rail only to start with, it should be big enough to carry road vehicles later if the railways failed to attract enough traffic. The extra cost of the greater dimension, about £100m, should be borne by the Government, which would be able to recoup it if the tunnel were converted.

Urging an early White Paper and parliamentary debate to complete the project by 1990, Mr Tom Bradley, chairman of the committee, said that after a "scrupulously fair" assessment of the various bridge and tunnel options had concluded that a bored tunnel was the only realistic choice if a firm decision in principle was to be made this year.

Two important issues remained to be clarified: the attitude of the French, who in the light of the previous tunnel project in 1974 were now "less than forthcoming"; and that of the British Government, which may need to be

flexible about its insistence on private finance.

He said yesterday: "If a deal based on genuine risk capital can be agreed, well and good." But if not, "I would strongly urge the Government to consider a direct financial commitment to the project."

It was not a new project at the limits of technology but a sound investment in proven technology with good prospects of a real and substantial return.

"All the signs are that a project of this kind will yield substantial long-term benefits both financially and socially, and the short-term will bring significant employment opportunities to the construction industry and other hard-pressed industrial sectors."

"There seems to be no sensible reason why some of the financial benefits should not accrue directly to the British Government and taxpayer."

While there had been differences among MPs on the committee, there had been no formal division in reaching the conclusion, he said.

A rail tunnel, the report finds, is not only the cheapest of the schemes proposed, but also the most advantageous in energy and environmental terms. It would cause only a minor setback to channel ports and shipping from which they would soon recover. By contrast, a

larger scheme involving an immediate and overwhelming transfer of road vehicle traffic would make their prospects bleak and raise a real danger of a cross-channel monopoly.

All the schemes submitted looked commercially viable, but the larger ones would take longer to achieve that position. The British Rail scheme should be profitable, and if it were the only one proposed the committee would see no reason not to recommend it.

But a more ambitious scheme with rail-on car and lorry capacity could be more economically attractive in the longer-term and carried a lower commercial risk. In view of the uncertainty over fuel and transport costs it would be neither sensible nor responsible to build a new and very expensive link across the Channel without provision for road vehicles.

Welcoming the report, Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, said he hoped the extra metre to allow road traffic would not become an excuse for an eiderdown of indecision laid over this project.

Getting on with a rail tunnel would be of immense value to the nation.

Second Report from the Transport Committee on the Channel Link, vol 1: Report and Minutes of proceedings. Stationery Office (24-60).

The former teacher who believes in the dignity of Mr Speaker

By Robin Young

Mr George Thomas, who announced yesterday that he will be retiring as Speaker of the Commons at the end of this Parliament, was a deeply committed and thorough politician before curbing his natural exuberance and outspokenness for love of parliamentary traditions and the dignity of his office.

His career, until he became Deputy Speaker in 1974, had been controversial. He fought a long campaign for leasehold reform, and as Secretary of State for Wales, he became an emotional and outraged critic of Welsh nationalism and the activities of the Welsh Language Society.

Born in Port Talbot in 1909, the son of a Rhondda miner, he remained proud of his Welshness. His coat of arms, at his own suggestion, incorporated a miner's lamp, an open Bible (he has been a Methodist lay preacher for more than 40 years), and a leek "for the better part of the United Kingdom" as well as the Westminster portcullis.

He made his first political speech to the Women's Corp Guild in Tonypandy when he was 18. In 1936 he led a hunger march from the town to Cardiff. In 1945 he and his close friend, Mr James Callaghan, were both elected for Cardiff constituencies.

A former schoolmaster, Mr Speaker Thomas became familiar to millions as the pleading voice stridently calling for "Order, order" at the



Mr George Thomas: Curbed his natural exuberance.

beginning of Radio 4's rumble-bombing Today in Parliament. Any teacher set in charge of a class of more than 600 including both Mr Dennis Skinner and the Reverend Ian Paisley could be forgiven thinking life was unfair, but Mr Thomas has never seemed to lose his love of the job.

When he told Mr William Hamilton, some time ago, that remarks about Princess Margaret were extremely discourteous by his standard, it was a pointed reminder of how high his standards are.

An open and honest man, he freely admits his prejudices, but his sharpest utterances are delivered with unflinching cour-

tesy. His bright humour and comedian's sense of timing and the gentle aside have often helped him defuse difficult situations in the House.

His benevolent smile made him a popular choice as godfather to many MPs' children before he took the chair. He never married, and for a long time his political mentor was his "niece". She featured often in his conversation, speeches and even election addresses, and when she died in 1973 at the age of 91, her funeral was the largest Cardiff had seen for years, attended, to the whips' dismay, by most of the Welsh Labour MPs.

As Welsh Secretary at the time of the Prince of Wales's investiture, it proved pleasant for him, as a miner's son, to tell the premier duke in Britain, the Duke of Norfolk, that he could not have things all his own way. Equally, he allowed, it was a great day for him to ride in the coach with the prince.

Without betraying his formative years in a Rhondda eroded by want, or being seduced by pomp, Mr Speaker Thomas has a honest pleasure in the public eye. His ceremonial duties which appealed to his sense of history.

"We have one of the most robust and lively parliaments in the world," he said of his noisy charges. "A lively vibrant parliament is a natural consequence of a free society. The essential thing is that a fair hearing must be guaranteed to everyone addressing the House."

Letters, page 15



The Prime Minister visiting the 39th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, at St Angelo airport, near Enniskillen, yesterday before taking a helicopter tour of the border area.

By-election ploy suspected

By Michael Hasfield
Political Reporter

Suspicious that Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, may deliberately create embarrassing by-elections for the social democrats in selecting his list of Labour peers, were voiced by members of the Council for Social Democracy yesterday.

Social democrats said they were not going to be pushed into any situation which was not of their own choosing. Until they form themselves into a party, the members of the council will not officially contest elections.

Mr Foot, however, is understood to take the view in submitting his list of names to the Prime Minister that the one consideration he will not have in mind is an attempt to force the issue with the social democrats by testing their strength in the country.

But he does share the view of many of his Labour colleagues that the social democrats, having left the party, should have resigned their parliamentary seats and fought by-elections.

The calculations among social democrats are that perhaps only Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport) stands a chance of regaining his seat at this stage of the council's attempt to weld itself into a party.

The supposed Social Democratic Alliance announced yesterday that it is to contest four seats in the Greater London Council elections and appealed to Liberals "to co-operate with us".

Mrs Thatcher replies to Paisley protest

Continued from page 1

Government, which has been happy to give the impression that the summit talks contained a secret formula for positive movement in Northern Ireland. Mr Paisley regarded what he calls the "unremitting, flat-footed guarantee" to the Ulster Unionists as the main obstacle to progress.

Mrs Thatcher, speaking shortly before leaving Northern Ireland after her two-day visit, said she came to the province partly to allay people's fears and to give reassurances about Ulster's position.

There have been few immediate public reactions from Ulster Unionists to her visit, other than by Mr Paisley, who in the early hours yesterday attempted to storm Hillsborough Castle, near Belfast, where Mrs Thatcher spent the night.

He headed a fleet of cars which tried to break through the security ring around the castle.

Eventually he guided the convoy, with horns blaring through the narrow country lanes to a Free Presbyterian church near by. They sang two hymns and Mr Paisley read

from the Bible and prayed for "guidance in the valley of darkness".

After discussing tactics beneath the pulpit the convoy returned to the castle and continued the protests. After handing in the letter to Mrs Thatcher, Mr Paisley and four supporters shouted in unison: "No surrender."

Mrs Thatcher delivered a brief reply to Mr Paisley stating: "I have made my position absolutely clear in the speech I gave last night in the Parliament buildings at Stormont. I enclose a copy of it."

Her final day in Northern Ireland comprised a visit to two successful engineering firms and a helicopter tour of the border area around Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. She was briefed by officers about border security.

Mr John Hermon, Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, apologized to a delegation of Dublin civic leaders yesterday as they left Belfast after an official visit which was marred by clashes with Mr Paisley and his supporters on Thursday. The Lord Mayor of Dublin was kicked and pushed.

Leading article, page 15

Mr Foot and TUC chiefs boycott Bevin event

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Opposition, and TUC leaders are to boycott a ceremony honouring Ernest Bevin, the former Labour Foreign Secretary, so as not to cross a civil servants' picket line.

A plaque is to be unveiled by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, at the Department of Employment in London on Monday, the day of the civil servants' picket line.

Pickets will be on duty outside the department and other Whitehall offices. The boycott, backed by the International Labour Organisation, meant that the civil servants' picket line was halved with only representatives of government departments there.

Yesterday, however, leaders of the Labour movement and representatives of foreign countries assembled in London to pay tribute to Bevin.

A celebration, with a buffet lunch and speeches in an hotel, was organized by the Transport and General Workers' Union. It

was attended by Mr Foot, union leaders and representatives from foreign embassies.

The Russians, with whom Mr Foot did not always see eye to eye, sent their labour attaché, Mr and Mrs Sidney Wyne, Bevin's daughter and son-in-law, Miss Ivy Saunders, his former union secretary, Mr Frank Cousins and Mr Jack Jones, both former transport union general secretaries and political leaders including Mr Denis Healey, Mr Wedgwood Benn and Lord Shinwell, also attended.

The speakers took the opportunity to point out that in Bevin's day the Labour Party had survived internal struggles and come out stronger.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, said he thought Bevin would have been restless with disappointment at our shortcomings.

"He would have expected more unity and coordination of policy and practice in the movement than we have yet achieved."

Instinct to rule, page 14

Mini Metro pulls ahead of Ford competitors

By Edward Townsend

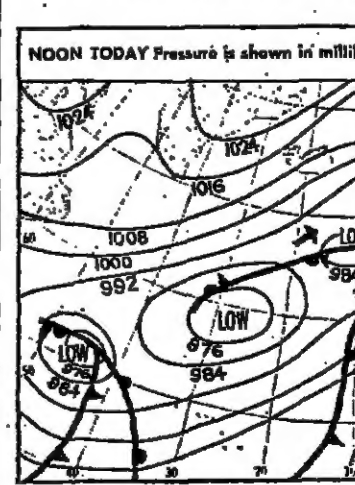
BL's Mini Metro has overtaken its main Ford competitors to become Britain's second best-selling car.

Last month Metro sales totalled 12,047, ahead of the Ford Escort and Fiesta models and not far behind the Ford Transit van.

The Metro's success has been achieved despite a big contraction in the new car market. Sales fell by 12.7 per cent in 1980 and the lowest February level since 1976.

The Metro alone has been responsible for lifting BL's overall market share to 20.65 per cent, compared with under 17 per cent a year ago.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts Warm Cold Occluded

Today Sun rises: 6.33 am. Sun sets: 5.51 pm. Moon rises: 7.24 am. Moon sets: 7.18 pm.

First quarter: March 13. Lighting up: 6.21 pm to 6.01 am. High water: London Bridge, 2.19 am, 7.44 pm, 2.46 pm, 7.77 am, Avonmouth, 7.58 am, 14.00 pm, 8.20 pm, 13.99 pm, Dover, 11.27 am, 6.88 pm, 11.53 pm, 6.58 am, Hull, 6.58 am, 7.66 pm, 7.04 pm, 8.04 pm, Liverpool, 11.54 am, 9.90 pm.

Tomorrow Sun rises: 6.31 am. Sun sets: 5.53 pm. Moon rises: 7.50 am. Moon sets: 8.40 pm.

First quarter: March 13. Lighting up: 6.23 pm to 5.59 am. High water: London Bridge, 3.0 am, 7.66 pm, 3.27 pm, 7.77 am, Avonmouth, 8.41 am, 14.30 pm, 9.01 pm, 14.00 pm, Dover, 12.12 pm, 6.88 pm, Hull, 7.34 am, 7.88 pm, 7.44 pm, 8.21 pm, Liverpool, 12.18 pm, 9.66 pm, 12.36 pm, 10.10 pm.

1ft = 0.3048m. 1m = 3.2808ft.

All areas lie in a strong SW air stream. Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, East Anglia, Midlands, SE, NW, Central, NE, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, North Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea, Atlantic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, Antarctic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Baltic Sea, North Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea, Atlantic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, Antarctic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Baltic Sea.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; snow.

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Oxford nullifies student union vote after discovery of forged signatures on ballot papers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The election of the president of Oxford University's student union was declared void yesterday after evidence of a "major fraud" involving the new Centre Democratic student group.

Ballot boxes at four colleges, Worcester, St Hilda's, Lady Margaret Hall, and Christ Church, were impounded at about 2 am by Dr. J. H. Hayes, the university's union officer, who is responsible for student discipline, after the discovery of forged signatures on ballot papers.

Each paper should have been signed by an independent scrutineer: his signature was found to have been forged on more than 100 votes cast in those four colleges for Mr Alan Campbell, a biochemistry student from New College, and the candidate for the Centre Democratic group.

The group, which consists mainly of disaffected Conservative and Liberal students, was set up only a few weeks ago. It was not expected to get anywhere near winning the election which was expected to

go to either the Conservatives or the Progressives.

The Centre Democrats do not have any official ties with the new Council for Social Democracy, although many are active supporters of the council. Miss Rebecca Williams, a law student at Wadham and daughter of Mrs Shirley Williams, a founding member of the council, was one-stage a Centre Democratic candidate for an executive officer post within the student union.

Miss Lesley Riddoch, this year's Progressive president of the student union, said last night that Mr Campbell was evidently distressed by the affair. She genuinely believed that neither he nor any of the other leaders of the Centre Democrats were involved in the ballot-forging, and had no prior knowledge of it.

"It could be a clever plot by some other party wanting to discredit the Centre Democrats. They ran a fairly flashy campaign and generated a lot of bad feelings. But no one wanted to waste time in conducting a witchhunt. The students' election tribunal, which was set up yesterday, decided that its main

Housing-in-crisis, 4: On the edge of Metroland, a council strives to cut its waiting list

Prosperous Aylesbury puzzled by government policies

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Aylesbury stands just beyond the outer limit of what John Beresford christened "Metroland" in the pretty and peaceful Buckinghamshire countryside. New offices and shopping developments have been grafted on to the picture postcard eighteenth-century streets and lanes, with visually rather unhappy results, but the place is unmistakably prosperous.

Even at a time of acute recession, unemployment in the town is less than 4 per cent. It is a fact that is the envy of growing towns in Britain, with the exception of the "artificial" new city of Milton Keynes, a few miles to the north, and unlike many towns in the Home Counties seems to like it that way.

Until recently it was one of the towns officially designated to take overspill population from London and, although the Greater London Council is coming to an end, council officials are con-

sidering that growth will continue. The population of 50,000 is expected to increase to 62,000 in the next decade.

"We have built up the infrastructure," Mr. Michael Bolton, the chief housing officer, points out, "and so we have got to keep going."

But more people mean more housing, and in this respect Aylesbury has its difficulties. Like everywhere else, "Council housing is in a bit of a bind," says Mr. Bolton. "We are fortunate, of course," Mr. Bolton concedes, "we have got no really bad housing, no action areas or improvement areas, or anything like that."

"But we have got 3,500 people on the waiting list, and the average waiting time is about two and a half years. Admittedly only about 650 of them are in urgent need, but the housing situation is bound to mean that the pressures will increase."

The Conservative dominated council has recently earned the Government's approval by

adopting one of its favourite schemes, releasing council land to private builders for low-cost housing for sale. Tenders are being invited for two sites, which should provide some 300 units.

But councillors and officials are approaching the scheme with some caution, and they certainly do not see it as the answer to all their difficulties. For one thing, they are not sure quite how low cost it will prove to be.

"We are allowed to sell the land at up to 30 per cent below the current market price," Mr. John Goss, the chief executive, points out. "But it must not be below the historic price, in other words the price at which it was bought. That is all right for land bought several years ago which has appreciated substantially in value, but it does not give us much latitude with more recently acquired sites."

On the other hand, the builder must be able to sell at well below market price, otherwise the scheme has no point.

It will only attract those who could have afforded to buy anyway.

"The houses on the two sites will be offered first to existing council tenants and people on the waiting list. If there are not enough takers, the rest will be sold on the open market without any discount. We shall just have to wait to see what effect it has, and whether it meets a real need," Mr. Goss says.

Like councils everywhere else, Aylesbury is puzzled by the Government's policies. Even some staunchly Labour councils will admit the need for cuts in local authority expenditure, if only to ease the burden on their ratepayers. But they do not see why the cuts should be heavily on housing, when other activities such as education and social services have escaped relatively lightly.

The answer is, as Mr. Michael Heslop, Secretary of State for the Environment, has admitted, that "capital cuts are quicker and easier to make than

cuts in current expenditure, and that house-building and renovation are therefore the obvious targets."

It is an attitude that is driving local authorities to despair. New and renovated housing, they point out, is the most important thing that will be disappearing in value over the years. If, as is said, house purchase is the best investment any private individual can make, why does the same not hold good for the public sector?

Moreover, they add, it is not a luxury but an urgent necessity. It is no good the Government talking about a "crude national housing surplus" when there are so many areas of acute shortage, deprivation and squalor. Housing that is not built today will cost more to build tomorrow, and the social and economic cost of allowing so much of the housing stock to decay is something that no Government can face with equanimity.

Concluded

17 held in robberies investigation

By Stewart Tindler
Crime Reporter

Several police raids yesterday in connection with armed robberies could provide important new evidence for investigations by Operation Countryman, the inquiry into allegations of London police corruption.

In the final phase of a 10-month operation by detectives from Regional Crime Squad Number Five, based in Hertfordshire, 15 men and two women were arrested in London and the Home Counties by police units totalling more than 100 officers.

Among the crimes the squad is investigating is the robbery of £176,000 from the offices of the Daily Express in May 1976. It is one of the three big bank and payroll robberies at the centre of the allegations which led to the creation of Operation Countryman in 1978. Officers are cooperating with the regional crime squad and following the progress of the inquiry, called Operation Countryman, which has been questioned in connection with inquiries into crimes involving up to £1m.

The two previous phases of the investigation have led to charges against people charged with the allegations in the country and involving £3.2m.

Its origins lie in the information supplied by three informants which prompted the creation of a team of 20 officers. For the moment, Countryman officers are reported to be staying their hand until the regional squad's work is completed. At that point they are expected to step in.

West Indian education survey is opposed

By Our Education Correspondent

The united opposition of West Indian groups, local authorities and teachers' unions to a proposed national survey of the academic performance of West Indian pupils makes it increasingly unlikely that the Government will decide to undertake it.

The Government asked for the views by the end of last month of the interested parties to a proposal by a study group of the Association of Performance Unit (APU) within the Department of Education and Science that a survey should be made of West Indian pupils' performance in mathematics, English language and science, partly in order to ascertain the degree of "under-achievement" among such pupils.

The West Indian Standing Conference, which is the umbrella organisation for West Indian associations, says in its reply that it believes that the so-called under-achievement of West Indian pupils is not the result of any lack of ability, but rather of the way in which black children are treated in British schools.

West Indian pupils were usually placed in low ability groups because of teachers' low expectations, the conference maintained. Many West Indian parents want to see their children go to the best schools, but they are often unable to do so because of financial difficulties. It is considered the O level group, a CSE grade 1 is considered the

equivalent of an O level "pass".

Marked at the test books used in schools failed to recognise the achievements or history of black people. West Indian pupils were not given anything positive with which to identify or to stimulate learning.

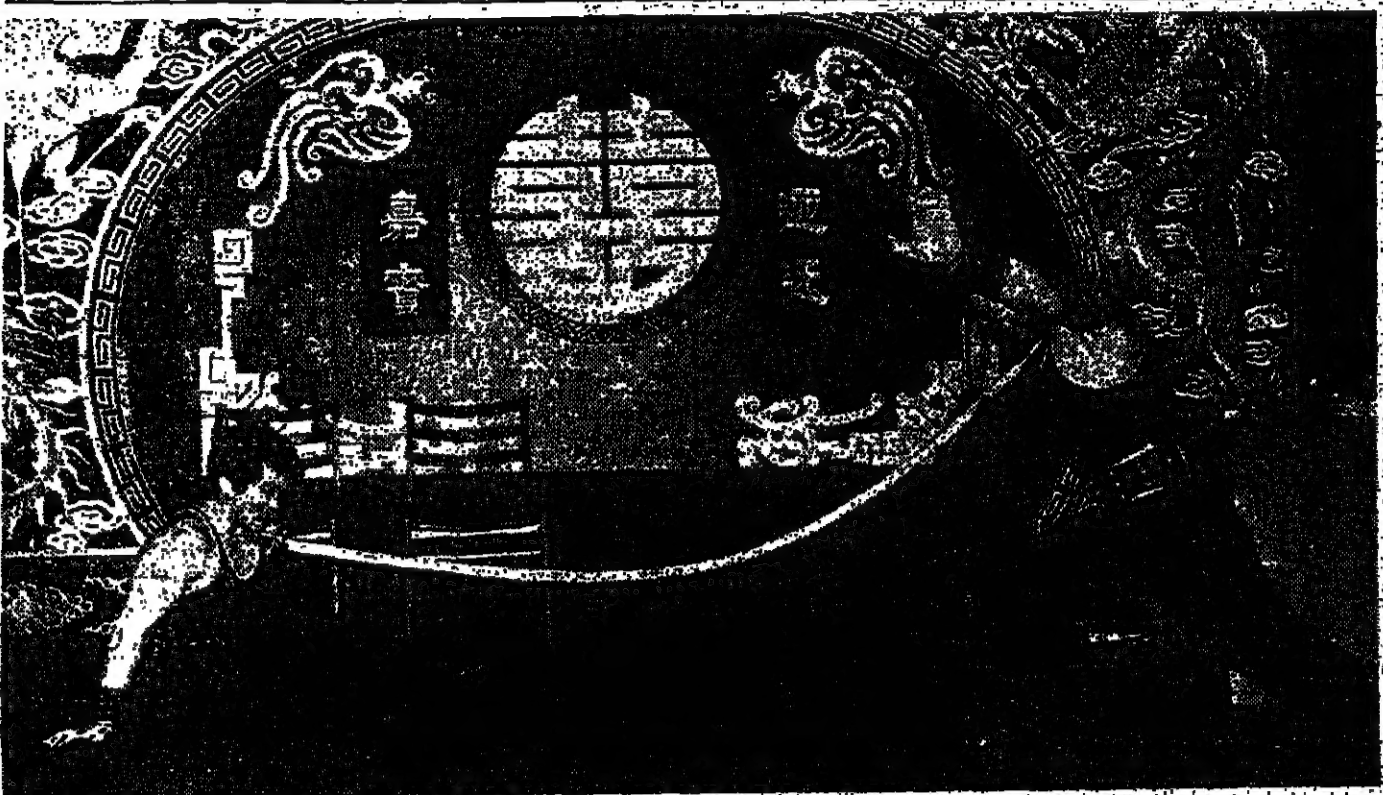
The difference doubts that a meaningful assessment of West Indian pupils can be made without taking into account the unfavourable conditions in which such pupils operate.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities says that although it shares the concern about the under-achievement of West Indian pupils, it has serious reservations and misgivings about the APU proposal as it now stands.

The proposal failed to take account of issues of context such as schools ethos; teaching styles and curricula; the expectations of parents, pupils and teachers; the socio-economic background of pupils; the influence of racism in society and variations in provision between local authorities, it says.

For those reasons, it could not support the proposal, but it did not reject the idea of further research into "this important area". The Association of County Councils has responded in a similar vein.

The National Union of Teachers has said that it will instruct its members not to participate in a survey of the type proposed. It is concerned about the way in which the West Indian children would be identified and the purpose to which the results of the survey would be put.



"Yingqigong", or thrusting a spear between throats until it breaks, demonstrated by Chinese martial arts experts. The team of 24 begin a tour at the New London Theatre tomorrow.

Long-running battle over Sunday shows likely as newcomer takes on Equity

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The imbroglio over the Sunday opening by the West End variety show, *That's Showbiz*, looks as though it could end up running longer than the show itself: the move into the High Court represents a level of contention which has not been particularly good.

Faced with poor houses early in the week, but better audiences at the weekend, *That's Showbiz* announced the start of Sunday evening performances, giving the cast Mondays and Tuesdays off in lieu.

Such an arrangement would work well with the cast, but Equity points out, there are great pressures upon the cast in a show which is having difficulties. They may agree to contract changes to safeguard their immediate employment, although by doing so it could affect agreements which benefit all performers.

A similar dispute occurred last year when the cast of *Chicago* agreed to wage cuts to keep open the show. It was resolved after Equity provided the musical with financial support from its Theatre Emergency Fund.

Equity was not unsympathetic to the position of *That's Showbiz*, and indicated that if

took the gamble of mounting a Sunday performance before the union's council met last Tuesday, it would probably approve the idea.

However, Mr. Kendall-Lane had advertised the performance last Sunday, "by public demand", and refused to postpone it. He offered to abide by the council's decision if dispensation was given for that one Sunday show.

Agreement could not be reached, and the show went on despite Equity's objection; the audience was sparse, being estimated at between 180 and 300, in a theatre seating 1,000.

Sunday opening in the West End has long been a subject of contention, with Equity keen to ensure that performances on Sundays would involve protection and financial rewards for its members.

That's Showbiz, with its unusual variety format, hardly provides a proper test of whether there is an audience for straight theatre on Sundays. But, given the headlines over the past week, tomorrow's performance has been a well-publicised test of the union's claim that the audience will give a fair indication of whether there really is public demand for Mr. Kendall-Lane's sabbath show.

Inquiry into alleged farm frauds

By Hugh Clayton

The Government is investigating allegations that farmers have made fraudulent claims for EEC cattle subsidies valued at £44m.

The allegations are being examined by the investigating branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The ministry would not disclose the source of the allegations or the number of cases involved.

The examination will centre on two EEC schemes intended to reduce milk surpluses. One requires farmers not to sell milk even though they may continue to produce it, and the other requires them to change from milk to beef.

One scheme has ended and the other will finish in three weeks. Payments have been made to farmers who have sold or slaughtered dairy cows. The ministry is examining allegations that farmers have applied for EEC payments on the ground that they were about to reduce milk production, but have actually disposed of much less valuable cattle, after changing identity tags or certificates.

Six members quit Royal College of Art council after dispute over policy

By Kenneth Gosling

Policy disagreements have led to the resignation of six members of the council of the Royal College of Art, including its chairman and deputy chairman.

Difficulties had been evident for some time past and the situation is to be discussed at a meeting of the council on March 13. Until then the college is issuing no statement.

Mr. Brian Cooper, its registrar, said last night: "Sir Hugh Casson, provost of the college, said it was absolutely right to 'water' the council should discuss it first."

Although a statement about the resignations was issued on college notepaper, Mr. Cooper said that that was done without the knowledge of the council. There was a difference of view, he said, about the stage at which a press release should be issued.

Those who were resigned are: Mr. C. B. Stenham (chairman and pro-convener), financial director of A Unilever; Mr. Oliver Makower (deputy chairman and treasurer), a defence manufacturer; Mr. Adrian Bridgewater, director of the Caversham Research and Advisory Centre, Cambridge; Mr. T. C. Design Holdings; Mr. Michael Grade, director of programmes,



Mr. C. B. Stenham: Resigns as pro-convener.

organization and staffing of the college. The Department of Education and Science is also understood to feel the same way. A visiting committee came up with some strong recommendations on how changes should be made.

But according to one member of council, the academic staff was not prepared to listen constructively or to concede that there should be any criticism of the college or its running.

The same source said that Mr. Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary of State for Education, had been prepared to be supportive provided changes were made; but the college did not seem to wish to listen to the Department of Education and Science or take its advice.

Another member of the council said the difficulty basically was "a clash of sound, sharp, business sense against academic whimsy". The academics, he said, tended to resist having "doses of reality thrown at them".

The Department of Education and Science confirmed that the visiting committee, an independent group that advises the Secretary of State, had reported critically on some aspects of the college's policy.

Army climbers rescued

From Our Correspondent

A squad of soldiers on an adventure exercise in the Lake District were rescued from a mountain top after they were lost in a snowstorm.

Two were unconscious. They were revived by doctors in the rescue teams. Stretcher parties twice climbed the 2,500-foot peak during the night to bring down six soldiers who were suffering from exposure. Other members of the training squad of 16 from Strensall Bar-

acks, York, were helped down the fellside to ambulances.

Mr. James Coyne, the mountain rescue leader, said yesterday: "The conditions were very difficult. There was a snowstorm, a 60 mph wind, and the temperature was below zero. In 20 years' experience I have never known things worse."

A sergeant and a corporal were with the young Army lads, who are in their late teens. Everyone was huddled together on the summit of Dale Head, near Buntermore.

Anti-nuclear campaigners name 'bunker officials'

Anti-nuclear campaigners in Cleveland yesterday named 52 people who have apparently been chosen to go into a control centre in a cellar at Middlesbrough town hall in the event of a nuclear attack.

It is the first time the names have been made public, although the centre's existence is well known.

Dr Peter Smith, leader of the campaign, said yesterday: "We are being fooled into thinking that somehow we could survive a nuclear attack."

The whole thing is a waste of time and money. There would be no survivors in an urban, industrial centre like this," he said that the list had been denied at every level until this week.

It includes the county's chief constable, the chief fire officer and senior county council staff.

Dr Smith and his colleagues say the assistant county training standards officer would work at all operations officer and a law librarian would be an operations planner.

Mrs. Maureen Taylor, a county councillor and campaigner, told a press conference: "There is a tremendous amount of public money going down the drain, in my view, at a time when the country is having to cut back in major areas of need."

There was considerable secrecy about it. "On the one hand we have the minister saying the public must be informed. At the same time people like myself have to dig out information very painfully."

Councillors do not know what is going on. It seems to me that if we are responsible for spending public money, we should be aware of what is happening."

The county council said: "It appears to be a list of people who took part in Operation Square Leg (A government exercise last September to assess the response to a theoretical nuclear attack) but you cannot define in advance who would be in the control room."

Britain might get bigger and dearer Trident missile

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

Britain might decide to replace its Polaris strategic deterrent in the 1990s, not with the Trident-C4 missile as announced last year, but with its big and more expensive brother, the Trident-5, which is being built, will be able to carry both kinds of missile.

The Ministry of Defence is studying whether Britain, too, should not at least keep its options open, particularly as the four-bus force is planned to keep going as Britain's deterrent until about the year 2020.

Ideally the ministry would like to opt for a British-built submarine, whose missile complement of 42, like that of the Ohio, although it would not be as large in other respects because it would not need to carry the Ohio's complement of 24 missiles.

How many missiles the British submarines will carry is still under consideration, and it

might well be more than the 16 announced last year. It is understood, however, that it will certainly not be as many as 24.

One argument in favour of changing to the D5 missile is that its timing might suit Britain better. As it is, Britain will probably have to buy the C4 before the submarines are ready, which means that the United States will have to store the missiles, and will charge for the privilege.

A faster submarine than the Resolution class, which carries Polaris, would suit the Royal Navy because the shape would improve its underwater performance. The Navy's other hunter-killer nuclear-powered boats are already moving towards that kind of configuration for hydrodynamic reasons.

The main decision on submarine design will be made later this year, which will still leave the ministry with the choice of sensors, defensive weapons to protect it and a nuclear power plant. So far all

that is known is that the hull will be built of conventional materials.

Meanwhile work on designing a warhead for the missiles is already under way at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston. The programme began in the mid-1970s, while work was still continuing on the new Chevaline warhead for Polaris.

At least some of the seven nuclear tests that Britain has carried out since 1974 at the United States underground test site in Nevada were connected with the new system, long before last year's decision to buy the Trident, it was learnt this week.

By the end of the present financial year the Trident programme will have absorbed about £4m, rising to £50m by April 1982. Ball spending will not start, however, for several more years.

So far the Ministry of Defence is confident that the cost of the package, even if it

opts for a wide hull, can be kept around the £5,000m estimate last year. A fifth submarine, which is a remote possibility, would add an additional £500m, including missiles.

Mr. John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, is understood to have said that the total cost from rising far above the estimate.

Mr. Nott said yesterday that he would "negotiate very hard indeed" with the Treasury to write off this year's £200m "overdraft" at the ministry.

He denied accusations of being a harrist brought in by the Prime Minister to cut defence spending. Instead she had asked him to continue where his predecessor, Mr. Francis Pym, had left off.

In 1980-81 the ministry was spending £4,100m with British industry, compared with £3,600m in 1979-80 and £3,500m in 1978-79. The Trident package would cost only £5,000m of a total equipment bill of £80,000m to £90,000m during 15 years.

Prison for disabled killer

Michael Symons, a disabled man weighing 20 stones, was jailed for five years yesterday for the manslaughter of Mr. Melvyn White, aged 45, a bread salesman.

He stabbed Mr. White four times last November, when he shielded Jennifer Burge, aged 16, a friend of Mr. Symons. The girl ran to Mr. White's van after Mr. Symons attacked her with a table leg in his car, it

was stated at Exeter Crown Court.

It was stated that Mr. Symons, aged 36, was self-conscious and unattractive to the opposite sex after childhood polio and realized that he could never marry the girl. Both came from Bishop's Cleeve, Somerset.

Mr. Symons was cleared of murder, but found guilty of manslaughter without diminished responsibility.

In brief

Man escapes as train hits car

Mr. Trevor Stride, aged 17, escaped moments before his school car was struck by an express train on a level crossing near his home at Tolton, Hampshire, yesterday.

"I jumped out and was only just clear of the car when it was struck by the train, torn in half, and debris is a quarter of a mile down the line under the locomotive," he said.

New date fixed for fraud case hearing

Five men on a fraud charge involving the National Board Research Fund, based at Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, yesterday were granted bail to appear at Lytham Magistrates' Court on June 12 for committal proceedings.

The five were originally due to appear on March 13, but Mr. Kelvin Gaskin, the court clerk, told the court that the prosecution was not in a position to proceed because the

Seaman rescued

Mr. Ibrahim Durin, aged 44, a seaman from Cardiff, was taken by a Navy helicopter to hospital in Truro yesterday after he was hurt in an accident on board the 10,000-ton Josephine 60 miles off Cornwall.

Petrol safety plea

The storing of petrol in plastic containers should be made legal for motorists and boat owners, the Health and Safety Executive proposed yesterday.

MP's hat maddened

Musical equipment valued at £200 was stolen on Thursday from the flat in South Kensington, London, of Mr. Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Huddersfield, West.

Labour MP to retire

Mr. Leslie Springs, aged 70, Labour MP for St Helens, with a majority of 15,555 at the last election, is not to stand again on health grounds.

Mr Ford in Galway

Mr. Gerald Ford, the former United States President, and his wife, arrived in the Irish Republic yesterday for a brief visit. He will stay in County Galway.

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WEST EUROPE

Calvo denial of armed forces' veto on plan for coalition in Spain

From Richard Wigg

Madrid, March 6

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo found himself obliged today to deny that he had become Prime Minister of a democracy that would always have to bear in mind the prevailing mood of Spain's armed forces.

Giving his first press conference this evening since taking office, he was repeatedly tackled by worried Spanish journalists on this sombre theme and the possibility of fresh coup attempts.

Señor Calvo Sotelo, though he looked characteristically serious throughout, sought to reply resolutely and to try to inject some optimism and leadership to raise public morale.

Asked if he felt there was a sword of Damocles hanging over him, he said: "In no way. Do not have a sensation. I am Prime Minister of a democracy being kept under vigilance, but of a democracy which is itself vigilant and valiant. I have not the least impression of a menace hanging over our democracy."

He emphasized a personal conviction that the democratic system the Spaniards people had given themselves would emerge strengthened by the experience of the attempted coup. Pessimism had to be fought by information, he said, and though Spain had been through grave days it was now recovering.

The new Government, he said, did not need to give special attention to the armed forces and it was the first in Spain in 40 years which did not have a military man in the Cabinet.

Speaking after a Cabinet meeting which analyzed the abortive coup the Prime Minister said the Government was now convinced that only a minority of the armed forces were involved "in the context of a general loyalty to the King, the constitution and liberty."

"If there had been some 'perplexity' among certain units initially, this had been overcome as the lives of our countrymen were at stake."

Señor Calvo Sotelo denied a suggestion he had been deterred from accepting a coalition government with the Socialists by a secret veto from the armed forces.

The decision to continue with a Centre Democratic Union Government had been a personal one based on the view Spain would be helped to greater stability by a single-party government.

But he indicated that the Government was to look more closely into two matters causing particular concern to Spain's military men—terrorism and the devolution process of ministries.

Two small groups of ministers are to study legal measures to strengthen the fight against terrorism and to define more precisely powers retained by central Government within a framework of regional autonomy.

Señor Calvo Sotelo said the Suárez Government's policy of

not negotiating with Basque terrorists would continue and he did not force the armed forces being directly involved in the Basque country. The police would be strengthened.

The Prime Minister also pledged his Government to continue combatting ultra-right wing terrorism in the Basque country, he urged the Socialists and other political forces to collaborate.

But he avoided any reference to Spain's entry into NATO, since Señor Calvo Sotelo, the Socialists who have already announced they would oppose such a step in the interest of greater national cohesion in the present crisis.

Murder claim: The military wing of the Basque separatist organization ETA today claimed responsibility for the murder of a national police officer in the Basque country.

Señor Calvo Sotelo, while Señor Calvo Sotelo was widely praised for flying to northern Spain to attend the funeral service for the victim (Harry Debelius writes from Madrid).

Señor José Luis de Raimundo Noya, aged 53, who was shot in the back of the head while walking home from his office yesterday, was the first policeman to be killed by extremists since the coup.

Señor Calvo Sotelo's gesture was especially significant because it was in contrast to the practice of Señor Adolfo Suárez, his predecessor, who as a general rule stayed away from such funerals.

The Prime Minister said on his arrival in Bilbao last night: "This is no time for statements, I've come to pay homage to a man who gave his life for the Basque country and for Spain."

He returned to Madrid after attending a requiem Mass for Señor Noya, but before doing so he found time to visit Señor Francisco Torres Gil, another policeman, who was wounded when he was caught in an ambush by ETA last Sunday.

A number of newspapers praised Señor Calvo Sotelo's prompt decision to go to Bilbao. Escalating terrorism, particularly the kidnappings known to have led to last week's coup attempt and the lack of a sign of a let-up in the violence.

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New EEC initiative in fisheries deadlock

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, March 6

Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, will fly to London and Paris on Monday for talks aimed at easing the deadlock over the future of the EEC fisheries policy.

Mr Thorn's tour, announced here unexpectedly today, will include meetings with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister.

Community Agriculture Ministers, who were due to resume their long running discussions on a new fisheries policy in Brussels on Monday, are to meet on Tuesday, apparently to allow Mr Thorn time to complete his Anglo-French reconnaissance.

Although fisheries will be the main topic of conversation, it is understood that Mr Thorn will also want to discuss the agenda for the next EEC summit meeting on March 23 and 24 in Maastricht, Holland.

A particular point Mr Thorn may raise is the reported wish of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, to have the issue of steel aid to the steel industry discussed at Maastricht.

The Bonn Government is under pressure from its steel-makers to tax what are alleged to be heavily-subsidized imports of steel from other EEC countries.

Since the death of Mr Finn Olaf Gundelach in January, responsibility for fisheries policy has been in the relatively inexperienced hands of Mr George Kontogeorgis, the new Greek EEC Commissioner.

Mr Thorn's decision to intervene personally in the complicated fisheries dispute is seen here as an attempt to impart a new political impetus to efforts to reach agreement in the hope of clearing the decks for negotiations on EEC farm prices on the planned reform of the Community's finances.

The most serious obstacle to agreement is the question of British coastal waters for French trawlers.

Mr Thorn is said to be "in a bit of a bind" in relation to reserve waters within 12 miles of its coast mainly for its own fishermen (but subject to "historic rights" enjoyed there by the French and others) until 1993, when the position would be reviewed.

In addition, the Commission proposes that in "sensitive zones" off the North Sea and in the Irish Sea the access of vessels above a certain size should be controlled.

Escaped French prisoner found

Paris, March 6—General

Dupré, one of two French prisoners who made a spectacular helicopter break-out last week, was recaptured here tonight by police.

It is believed that M Dupré and a policeman were shot before the former was taken into custody. Another man and a woman were also arrested.

—Agence France-Press.

Death sentence rulings revive controversy

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, March 6

It is highly improbable that any of the seven men now under sentence of death in France will be executed before the presidential elections. The spectre of the guillotine has already withdrawn from two of them.

The Cour de Cassation yesterday quashed the death sentences of Mohamed El-Chen, aged 21, and Jean-Luc Rivière, aged 24, which were passed last October by the Assizes of the Pas-de-Calais, for the murder of a woman and her five-year-old daughter.

The court, on technical grounds, said it never ruled in points of substance, but only on

points of procedure—sent the two men for retrial before another court. It based its decision on the fact that the jury, when asked whether there were extenuating circumstances, replied "No," without any indication on the way the vote went.

The Code of Criminal Procedure requires that a decision unfavourable to the accused must be carried by at least 8 votes out of 12. In other words no one can be sentenced to death except by an absolute majority.

This verdict has revived the controversy as to whether the criminal chamber of the Cour de Cassation is abolitionist in spirit, systematically finding procedural grounds for quashing death sentences.

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This verdict has revived the controversy as to whether the criminal chamber of the Cour de Cassation is abolitionist in spirit, systematically finding procedural grounds for quashing death sentences.

The court, on technical grounds, said it never ruled in points of substance, but only on

points of procedure—sent the two men for retrial before another court. It based its decision on the fact that the jury, when asked whether there were extenuating circumstances, replied "No," without any indication on the way the vote went.

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OVERSEAS



El Salvador's four-man ruling junta (left to right): Dr Ramón Navarrete, Colonel Abdol Gutiérrez, President José Napoleón Duarte and Dr José Antonio Morales Erlich. They had signed a decree authorizing an electoral council.

Salvadoran church speaks out against the left

From Michael Leppman

San Salvador, March 6

In what appears an important shift of position for the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador, the archbishop yesterday blamed left-wing guerrillas for causing more hardship than right-wing terrorists.

Most Rev Arturo Rivera y Damas, who took over as leader of the church when Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated last March, said he thought this was an important reason why the guerrillas seem to be losing popular support.

"The people have abandoned the guerrillas because of the guerrillas' signs of communism, because of their sabotage and because a majority of the displaced are not the ones who have been displaced by government," he said.

Most refugees fleeing from army or right-wing terror were in church refugee camps, he said, and these numbered about 6,000. Against this, he estimated the number of those displaced by the guerrillas at 50,000.

Mr Damas said the social and agrarian reforms carried out by President Duarte's Government

had further weakened the cause of the left. It was the job of the church to reflect the feeling of the people.

"There would be more pressure for an assurance if the reforms were not carried through; but now I think the tension has been removed. There is more chance of a negotiated settlement now than before."

Mr Damas said he was persuaded that the insurance, at least in the short run, will not succeed.

Archbishop Romero, a churchman respected throughout Latin America, was a peace advocate of reform and was regarded as sympathetic to the left. His killer is assumed to have been a right-wing gunman.

The rightists have long regarded the church as an opponent and several church people have been killed, including four American nuns shot last December, an incident that provoked President Carter to suspend aid to El Salvador.

Mr Damas said he was frightened for his own safety since the archbishop, a grave man with heavy spectacles and receding black hair, said: "I

have received no threat. He believed most of the attacks on priests and nuns were the work of the security forces and the ultra-right."

He was not satisfied with the progress of the Government's investigation into Archbishop Romero's murder and criticized the regime's record on human rights.

"There was a hope to be desired," he said.

Yet the overall trend of his remarks, implying a measure of support for the security forces, must be highly pleasing for the Americans in their attempt to get international acceptance of their military and economic help to the Duarte junta.

The archbishop's remarks, however, should not be taken as an endorsement of the Reagan Administration's policy towards El Salvador, which is more bellicose than state

men about the country's welcoming of this country's announced preparations for general elections next year (David Cross writes from Washington).

In a prepared statement, a State Department spokesman said that the move represented a "major step" to take the

Central American republic towards peaceful and democratic rule.

The Salvadoran Government yesterday announced the formation of an electoral council to update its list of eligible voters for elections in 1982.

The spokesman also welcomed accompanying promises by Salvadoran Government leaders that they would support the presence of an independent team of observers to monitor the elections and that they would abide by the results.

Army takes control: The Salvadoran army said today it had control of 10,000 sq miles of territory after 24 hours of fighting in which at least 30 guerrillas died. It added that guerrilla activity appeared to be slackening off.

In Guatemala, the right-wing Government accused Nicaragua and Cuba of being the main suppliers of arms to left-wing guerrillas trying to overthrow the Government.

It said that both countries had encouraged the unification of Guatemala's four chief militant leftist groups—AP and Retur.

UN call for sanctions against Pretoria likely to be vetoed by the West

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain will oppose economic sanctions against South Africa, together with other members of the United Nations, in a vote on a resolution on Namibia.

The General Assembly, without dissent, called on the Security Council to "convene urgently to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa" to force it out of Namibia.

Two resolutions containing that provision were among 10 that the Assembly adopted at the end of a five-day debate on Namibia.

One of the resolutions was adopted by a vote of 114-0 with 22 abstentions. The other by 125-0 with 13 abstentions.

The first affirmed that the South-West Africa People's Organization "is the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people."

The second affirmed that the South-West Africa election contest really was under way and that the Prime Minister, in his own constituency of George, in the Cape.

But even before the electoral contest really was under way it was clear that the question of participation in a racially mixed schools rugby tournament was going to be the issue which would symbolize the division between the ruling National Party and its right-wing opponents and even within the National Party itself.

The tournament is known as Craven Week and provides an opportunity for schoolboy players to show off their skills to the selectors of provincial and national teams. Last year the Government was invited to sponsor the tournament because a coloured exhibition side was aimed to take part.

Yesterday 15 schools on the East Rand announced they would not be taking part ostensibly for "educational reasons", although it was clearly because three coloured sides were participating in Craven Week.

Dr Andries Treurnicht, who represents the extreme right-wing of the National Party, told a political rally last night that

he took his hat off to the schools which were boycotting the tournament. This is hardly likely to endear him to the Prime Minister with whom he fell out badly last year over the same issue.

But Dr Treurnicht is aware that it is the Government's "integration" policies, such as racial mixing in sport, which are provoking large-scale defections by white voters to the ultra-right wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) and other conservative parties.

The HNP is campaigning on the theme that the Government's "reformist" policies will eventually lead to political integration in a Zimbabwe.

However, while right-wingers are applauding the schools' boycott of the rugby tournament, more moderate politicians and sports administrators have expressed concern that the boycott will undermine possible changes in Britain's attitude towards sporting ties with South Africa.

Yesterday Mrs Margaret Thatcher told Parliament that she would consider revising the Gleneagles Agreement (banning national teams from the Commonwealth's sports events) towards sporting links with South Africa if a greater amount of multiracial sport was allowed in South Africa.

Racially mixed rugby is issue in S African poll

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, March 6

The South African election contest really was under way last evening with an opening speech by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, in his own constituency of George, in the Cape.

But even before the electoral contest really was under way it was clear that the question of participation in a racially mixed schools rugby tournament was going to be the issue which would symbolize the division between the ruling National Party and its right-wing opponents and even within the National Party itself.

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Anglo-Guatemalan talks on Belize show progress

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Progress continued to be made yesterday in the negotiations between Britain and Guatemala on the future of Belize. The talks will resume in London on Monday.

Yesterday Señor Castillo Valdez, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, was host at a lunch for the British and Belizean delegates, which would seem to indicate a fairly friendly atmosphere. The working sessions chaired by Mr Nicholas

Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, were described as useful.

Each side, it appears, has set out its position, with the Guatemalans expounding their long-standing national aspirations to Belize, and Mr George Price, the Belizean Premier, emphasizing his country's determination to achieve independence.

But it seems that both sides are also emphasizing their wish to contribute to neighbourly relations and general prosperity in the region.

Four more dissidents arrested in Poland

Warsaw, March 6—Four anti-Communist Polish dissidents were formally charged tonight with taking the violent overthrow of Poland's communist system, an offence which carries the maximum penalty of death.

Indictments against the leaders of the self-styled Confederation of Independent Poland appeared to be further evidence of a clamp-down on dissent after Wednesday's Soviet-Polish summit in Moscow. The charges were reported by the official news agency PAP.

PAP said the four were Mr Robert Moczulski, aged 51, Mr Andrzej Szewc, aged 40, and Mr Tadeusz Stankiewicz, aged 32, and Mr Tadeusz Jankowski, aged 39.

Yesterday police arrested Mr Jacek Kuron, a Reform and prominent dissident leader, and his wife, who successfully today to serve Mr Adam Michnik, another well-known dissident, with a summons.

Both Mr Michnik and Mr Kuron are co-leaders of the dissident Self-Defence Committee (KOR), which has close ties with Solidarity.

KOR members played a key role in the strikes last summer which led to the creation of Solidarity, and now serve as union leaders.

The arrests prompted the Warsaw branch of Solidarity, responding to what it called increased police pressure, to advise its members of their rights and how to behave under questioning.

In its latest bulletin, Solidarity said many Warsaw University students had been called in for questioning recently and some faced accusations of being "flying" university, former resistance fighter, former prisoner of the Nazis and the Communists, and now part of the circle of Catholic intellectuals from which the new unions draw their cadres.

A concerted effort is now needed by everyone, he says, to incorporate the gains of the past few months.

The root of the trouble in the past was that bad information, destroyed trust, exaggerated national tensions, and produced moral plans based on false statistics. Now there is a chance of healthy development through open debate and criticism.

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Greece modifies Aegean air traffic controls

From Mario Modiano

Athens, March 6

The Greek government today announced the modification of certain air traffic arrangements in the Aegean which had been the cause of friction with Turkey.

It is understood that these arrangements related to the modification of an air corridor known as Whisky-14, running from northern Greece to the Dodecanese, which obstructed Turkish flights between the Anatolian mainland and the international air space of the Aegean.

This unilateral Greek move eliminates most, though not all, the differences between the two countries over air traffic control in the Aegean, which is under Greek responsibility.

Slimming cure for Eiffel Tower

From Charles Hargrove

Iran defence council rejects terms for ceasefire in Gulf war

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, March 6

A prominent Iranian religious leader today confirmed Iran's rejection of the Gulf war ceasefire plan proposed by a special Islamic mission.

All members of the Supreme Defence Council rejected it. Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei, a member of the council and a senior member of the powerful Islamic Republican Party, said, adding: "We are not tired of the war."

After two visits to both Tehran and Baghdad, the high-level Islamic mission, representing seven Muslim states and the PLO, proposed a ceasefire on March 12, to be followed a week later by a month-long Iraqi troop withdrawal.

The Iranian religious leader's statement at a Friday prayers ceremony he holds in Tehran, was the first outright rejection of the proposal by Iran, although President Abdolhassan Bani-Sadr, who is also the head of the defence council, indicated as much in a speech yesterday.

In a gibe at the mission's constant references to Islamic values in seeking peace, the hojatoleslam said: "Peace is not an absolute value according to Islam. When the United States, with the help of reactionary governments in the area... attacks us, it doesn't become us to ignore the rights of the two Iraqi and Iranian nations."

Iran believes that Washington encouraged the Iraqis to launch the Gulf war, with the principal aid of Saudi Arabia and Jordan, in retaliation for the taking of the American hostages. There is also a deep hostility about the tactics of the regime of President Saddam.



Mr Moshe Dayan speaking in Tel Aviv yesterday beneath a portrait of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister.

Mr Dayan sets out centre party

From Christopher Walker
Tel Aviv, March 6

Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli war hero and former Foreign Minister, today took a big step towards formally launching a new centre party which could have a crucial effect on determining the outcome of Israel's general election in June.

Although refusing to commit himself, Mr Dayan presented an 11-page document outlining the proposed party's key points of foreign policy, which will be the immediate granting of autonomy to the 1,200,000 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Standing symbolically under a large colour portrait of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, Mr Dayan told 200 members of an all-party discussion group that the solution of the Palestinian problem was the main issue facing the next Government.

He sharply attacked the solutions offered by both the ruling Likud coalition and the opposition Labour Party, and pledged a definitive statement of his intentions on April 2.

Looking fit and determined, the former military commander, who is 65, spoke for nearly an hour, setting out the importance of continuing the Camp David process. He claimed this could only be done by granting the Arabs autonomy over local affairs while maintaining overall Israeli control of the region.

Last appearance of 'most trusted man in US'

From David Cross
Washington, March 6

As Walter Cronkite, America's best known and most loved television personality, prepared to read tonight's evening news for the last time, painters prepared their brushes to touch up the somewhat weather-beaten stage-set he has used for the last 18 years.

The whole atmosphere with its slightly untidy background rather reminiscent of a newspaper reporter's office is considered a little too shabby for Mr Cronkite's successor, the clean-cut Dan Rather, whose youthful looks belie his 49 years. Moreover, the new blue and grey background will contrast better with Mr Rather's ruddy complexion than the high-contrast setting which has highlighted Mr Cronkite's pale skin and silver temples for so many evening news broadcasts.

The news that Mr Cronkite, who combines the pontificating dimples of the late Richard Dumbleby with the news-presenting tasks of Richard Baker on American television, is stepping down as anchor-man

'Admission' by Syrian soldiers on jail killings

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, March 6

Jordan today submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission two statements, described as "confessions", attributed to Syrian soldiers, who were said to have taken part in a military operation at Palmyra prison, Syria, in which 500 Muslim Brotherhood members are alleged to have been massacred.

Akram Ali Basbani and Issa Ibrahim Fayyad were described as two of the five men who were arrested after entering Jordan for the purpose of killing the Prime Minister. Both men were said to be from the Syrian Army's special defence battalions.

Mr Basbani is cited as saying they went to the prison early on June 26, the day after an unsuccessful attempt—attributed to the Brotherhood—to assassinate President Assad of Syria. Awakened and told to assemble in full battle dress with weapons, they were taken in 10 helicopters from Damascus to Palmyra.

At the prison, dividing into parties, they opened dormitory doors and machine-gunned the prisoners. On returning to Damascus, they were told that the operation must remain a secret.

The other alleged confession quotes Mr Fayyad, as stating: "After the soldiers left the prison, some of them were stained with blood. There had been bombing as well as shooting."

American business interests appear to have gained the upper hand

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, March 6

The Americans are emerging with a damaged reputation from a meeting here of the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites). Their actions have raised doubts about their intentions, and business interests appear to have won the upper hand over conservationists.

Trade in rare and exotic furs, skins and oils, and in live animals and birds, is a large, growing and profitable business in the United States, as elsewhere.

Parallel with the restricted legal dealing in wildlife products is a rich and rapidly expanding black market relying on poaching, smuggling and forgery. The scale of destruction of animals, birds and plants is so great that conservationists estimate that up to a fifth of the world's species may be extinct within 20 years.

The convention which has been signed by 67 governments,



Romantic rendezvous: Chia Chia, the giant panda, receiving bamboo shoots from Dr Brian Bertram, the curator of mammals at London Zoo on his arrival in New York. Chia Chia arrived in the United States on Thursday for a romantic springtime rendezvous with Ling Ling, the female panda in Washington. Chia Chia, who had been despoiled by the protected list, was given a big welcome at the airport. The panda, still wearing its protective cage, was taken to Washington Park Zoo, where he will be paired with Ling Ling, whose name means "cute little girl". If they produce an offspring, they will be the first giant pandas to do so in captivity.

Dr Bertram travelled to New York with Chia Chia and a supply of fresh green bamboo, Chia Chia's favourite food was provided for an in-flight meal. Chia Chia, whose name means "the very best", will be paired off for three months with Ling Ling. A British Airways spokesman said: "With spring in the air and London needing bells in the offering, we hope this will go well for a meeting of the giant pandas."

Washington changes course on conservation

From Trevor Fishlock
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The convention which has been signed by 67 governments,

is one of the most important regulators of the trade and a prime weapon against the illegal business.

It aims to find the middle ground between fur and feather business interests and the conservation lobby, so that a controlled legal trade can continue without threat to the survival of the creatures and plants upon which ultimately, man himself depends.

Much of the work of the convention, illustrated by its third conference, which ends here on Sunday, is painstaking analysis and application of myriad regulations. Debate centres on whether new species should be added to the Convention's Appendix-1, which bans trade in species, or Appendix 2, which strictly controls killing and trading.

What is emerging is the pressing need for more information about wildlife and the nature of the threats. There is also some impatience with the convention's development as an ad-

ministrative body spinning red tape.

Inevitably there is conflict between businessmen and the conservationists. The stark example at this conference was an attempt by the United States, backed by Canada, to have the convention amended so that it would be easier to remove species from the protected list, and more difficult to have new ones added.

The attempt was fought so strongly that the Americans withdrew the proposal. But for many conservationists the American attempt was a warning that values and perceptions were changing.

Mr Grenville Lucas, one of the British delegates, said that if the American moves had succeeded, "they would have wrecked the convention."

He said: "Their attitude to conservation seems to be changing and they seem to want Cites bent to suit their regulations, rather than changing their rules to come up to Cites standards."

Sadly, this sort of thing puts the fur traders and others in the legal wildlife business, who should be our allies, against us.

Dr Wayne King, the director of the Florida State Museum, and a leading conservationist, said: "I am afraid that there is a change in the thinking in the United States about conservation. There is a business view that if there is a resource, it should be used to the full."

It was clear to the conference from that start that American attitudes were changing. The composition of the United States delegation, chosen last November, was changed in January and several conservationists were removed.

Whaling ban: The meeting voted overwhelmingly today to ban trading in three species of whales, chosen last year (Reuters reports from Delhi).

Japan and the Soviet Union, the world's biggest whaling nations, voted against the proposal and the United States, Norway and Paraguay abstained.

Thais ask Russia to work for Kampuchea solution

From David Watts
Singapore, March 6

Thailand has called on the Soviet Union to ensure that its financial assistance to Vietnam is used for peaceful ends and to encourage an early end to the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

In a commentary on Radio Free Asia, which is supported by the Thai Government and aimed at socialist countries of South-East Asia, Bangkok appealed to Moscow to use its influence as a principal power and as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council to seek a political solution to the Kampuchean problem through an international conference, sponsored by the United Nations (Asean).

The commentary appears to be a response to a Soviet appeal to Thailand, which was also sent to other members of the association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).

Russia wants the Asean nations to attend a regional conference with the countries of

Indo-China. The conference proposal was first made at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) last January. The Soviet appeal urged the Thais to "show political realism".

The proposal from the Indo-China countries, however, made no mention of the subject to be discussed, and it was quite clear from other comments made at the time that Kampuchea would not be asked to attend. Vietnamese policy is that Kampuchea is not a "problem" and therefore does not need to be discussed.

The Asean countries view any demand for such a conference as an attempt to seduce them into de facto recognition of the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea through sitting with its representatives at the same conference table.

Recent Thai intelligence estimates have claimed that the Soviet Union is giving Vietnam \$2.7m a day in aid to support the Vietnamese economy and the occupation of Kampuchea.

Tigers booming

Moscow, March 6—Tigers are thriving in the Soviet Union. Fifty years ago there were no more than 30, but according to latest official figures there are 200 today mainly in forests of the extreme eastern Soviet Union.

Qantas strike ends

Sydney, March 6—Qantas, Australia's national airline, is expected to resume normal services within 24 hours after today's decision by airport ground staff to end their three-week strike, a spokesman said.



Walter Cronkite: Avuncular screen presence.

when he allowed his emotions, albeit briefly, to get the better of him. "Go, baby, go," he exclaimed when Apollo 11 was leaving the launch pad amid a cloud of smoke and flame.

Trained as a journalist (he has always said he feels most comfortable in the atmosphere of a news agency or newspaper office), Mr Cronkite joined CBS as a reporter in 1950, when television news was still a novelty. During the 1950s his face became more familiar to millions of Americans when he "anchored" the 1956 presidential convention for CBS.

When he was eventually promoted to the regular evening news slot in 1962 he was already one of television's most respected news personalities.

His departure from the evening news—he will still make special programmes—is regarded with some trepidation by CBS executives who are undoubtedly concerned that Mr Rather's less relaxed presence on the screen may not be as appealing as Mr Cronkite's stolid charm.

Nairobi lifts the curfew imposed on bandit area

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 6

The curfew imposed on Kenya's north-eastern province in November, after six Kenyan officials were killed by Somali bandits, has been lifted, the Kenya Gazette announced today.

The curfew was partially lifted a few weeks ago, but remained in force in Garissa district, where the November killings took place.

Officials say there has been an improvement in the security situation.

Cabinet resigns after S Korea inauguration

From Our Correspondent
Seoul, March 6

Mr Nam Duck Woo, the South Korean Prime Minister, and his cabinet resigned today in a move which was expected in the wake of the inauguration of President Chun Doo Hwan, on Tuesday.

Mr Chung Chong Taik, the Agriculture Minister, was the only cabinet minister who had not resigned because he had announced his intention of standing for Parliament.

A major reshuffle will be deferred until after the elections, which are scheduled for March 25, according to political commentators here.

Obote opponents condemn threat against UN staff

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 6

A spokesman claiming to speak for one of the underground groups in Uganda has condemned the threats made recently against United Nations staff in the capital.

Speaking by telephone, he said the Movement for the Struggle for People's Rights (MSPR), which claims to have 5,000 members, was under arms in Uganda, wanted to disassociate itself from such "acts of terrorism". They had no quarrel with foreign workers in Uganda, who were serving Ugandans as a whole, not President Obote, he said.

The threats were made in the name of the Uganda Liberation Group, which had not previously been known there.

Big political reshuffle in Chinese hierarchy

Peking, March 6—China announced a big political reshuffle today, with 12 ministers appointed in a series of changes that have been expected since last September.

The New China news agency said that the appointments were endorsed today at the end of the nine-day meeting of the National People's Congress (the Chinese parliament).

Mr Geng Biao, one of China's Deputy Prime Ministers, is to take charge of the Defence Ministry. His predecessor, Marshal Xu Xiangqian, who is 79, was about 79, Marshal Xu had given up his post as a Deputy Prime Minister last September.

A new secretary-general of the State Council (Cabinet) was appointed and four senior officials—including Mr Li Qiang, the Foreign Trade Minister—were named advisers to the council.

Diplomatic sources said that the appointment of Mr Geng, who is also secretary-general of the powerful Military Commission of the Communist Party Central Committee, appeared to be a move to further consolidate the power of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Vice Chairman and effective ruler of China.

Mr Geng, who is 72, takes up the defence portfolio at a time of military budgetary cutbacks and reports of discontent in the ranks of the People's Liberation Army.

The new minister is a veteran of the 1934-35 "Long March" in which the communists broke out of nationalist encirclement. He has served as Ambassador to Albania, Sweden, Pakistan and Burma.

In other moves, Mr Yuan Baohua was made minister of the important State Economic Commission. He replaces Mr Kang Shien, who was named as head of the Petroleum Ministry, which has been without a permanent head since Mr Song Zhenming was dismissed last year for covering up an oil-rig disaster.

Mr Han Guang, aged 69, was promoted to Minister of the State Capital Construction Commission. He takes over from Mr Gu Mu, aged 67.

Mr Lin Jufu, aged 65, the former Mayor of Peking, took over as Minister of Agriculture from Mr Huo Shilian, who had earlier been appointed party head of the troubled north Chinese province of Shanxi.

Mrs Hao Jianxiu, aged 45, described by the press agency as a "nationally known model woman worker", was named to head the Textile Ministry, where she had been a deputy minister. She replaces Mr Qian Zhigang, aged 60, in a ministry which is receiving top priority in economic planning.

Mr Li Peng, aged 52, was named to replace Mr Liu Lanbo, who is 74, as Minister for the Power Industry. Mr Bao Bin was appointed Minister of the First Ministry of Machine Building in place of Mr Zhou Zijian. The ministry supervises production in such



Mr Geng Biao: Receives the Chinese defence portfolio

areas as agricultural and general industrial equipment.

Mr Peng Deng, who was once the Deputy Commander of the East China Sea Fleet, was promoted Minister of Communications, replacing Mr Zeng Sheng, aged 70.

Mr Wen Minsheng, a former party secretary in the north-eastern province of Heilongjiang, was named Minister of Posts and Telecommunications in place of Mr Wang Zizang.

Mr Chen Muhua, China's only woman Deputy Prime Minister, was appointed Minister in charge of the State Family Planning Commission. She is already Minister in charge of Economic Relations with Foreign Countries.

Mr Huang Zhun, a veteran diplomat and the former head of the Chinese Liaison Office in Washington, replaced Sino-American relations were normalized in 1979, lost his post as Culture Minister. Instead, he was named Minister in charge of a new Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Mr Du Ningyuan, aged 66, relieved Mr Ji Pengfei as secretary-general of the State Council. Mr Ji heads the important Communist Party International Liaison Office, a position once held by the new Defence Minister.

The four new advisers to the State Council are Mr Qian Zhigang, Mr Liu Lanbo, Mr Zeng Sheng, and Mr Li Qiang.

The New China news agency said that the standards committee of the Congress endorsed an economic programme calling for further cuts in government spending in an effort to balance the budget and combat inflation.

The committee also adopted regulations on paid leave for workers and office staff living away from their families and dissolved the Financial and Economic Committee to strengthen government control over the economy and to improve efficiency.

Two new commissions were established—a State Family Planning Commission and a Commission on Foreign Cultural Relations.—Reuters.

Law Report March 6 1981

No conspiracy to injure Lonrho

From Our Correspondent
London, March 6

Lonrho Ltd and Another v Shell Petroleum Co Ltd and Another.

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Fox.

Shell and BP took oil into Rhodesia in breach of sanctions imposed following the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 which resulted in loss to Lonrho, in that it sustained the illegal regime in Rhodesia, was held liable to pay money on a certain event, there was an implied understanding by him that he would do nothing of his own accord to prevent that event arising.

That principle, however, had no application to the present case. There was no obligation on the oil companies. They did not promise to bring in any oil by sea. The oil companies, which showed that where the plaintiff had only a hope or expectation of earning commission rather reward for the defendant was not liable simply because he did something which meant that the commission or reward never became payable. Accordingly, there were no implied terms such as those alleged.

Next, Lonrho alleged that Shell and BP, through their associates, were guilty of a breach of the common law duty of confidentiality. There was no obligation on the oil companies. They did not promise to bring in any oil by sea. The oil companies, which showed that where the plaintiff had only a hope or expectation of earning commission rather reward for the defendant was not liable simply because he did something which meant that the commission or reward never became payable. Accordingly, there were no implied terms such as those alleged.

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bring crude oil into Belra and transport it by the pipeline to the refinery, and that in that way Lonrho would be liable to pay money on a certain event, there was an implied understanding by him that he would do nothing of his own accord to prevent that event arising.

That principle, however, had no application to the present case. There was no obligation on the oil companies. They did not promise to bring in any oil by sea. The oil companies, which showed that where the plaintiff had only a hope or expectation of earning commission rather reward for the defendant was not liable simply because he did something which meant that the commission or reward never became payable. Accordingly, there were no implied terms such as those alleged.

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Saturday Review

Shelley unlocked

by William St Clair

When news arrived in the summer of 1832 that Percy Bysshe Shelley had been drowned off the coast of Italy at the age of 29 there were no respectful obituaries in the English newspapers. His reputation as dangerous revolutionary, corrupter of morals and despoiler of religion was virtually unchallenged.

Shelley's widow, Mary, left desolate with a baby son in Italy, sought consolation (and money to live on) in preparing Shelley's unpublished poems for publication, and two years later, in her preface to Shelley's *Posthumous Poems*, she offered the world a different view. "The wise, the brave, the gentle, is gone for ever. He is to them as a bright vision whose radiant track, left behind in the memory is worth all the realities that society can afford. To see him was to love him."

It was a prophetic message. A generation later Shelley was to become the favourite poet of the Victorians, seen as one of the glories of English literature, an ethereal, spiritual creature, "an ineffable angel" in Matthew Arnold's phrase, too good for this world. But in 1824, the poet's father, Sir Timothy Shelley, shared the prevailing view. He was deeply ashamed of his only son who had defied his wishes from an early age and brought disgrace to the family name.

Mary was bluntly informed through lawyers that she must suppress *Posthumous Poems* or lose the allowance which Sir Timothy paid to her for the upbringing of her baby son. Since Mary had no other income, she reluctantly consented and the unsold copies of the book were withdrawn. As part of the settlement, she was obliged, as she explained in a letter, "to promise not to bring dear Shelley's name before the public again."

Timothy's lifetime over 70 years old, this condition seemed unlikely to cause much inconvenience. Few people knew that Mary Shelley was the author of one of the most powerful and enduring novels of the time for *Frankenstein*, written when she was scarcely 19, had been published anonymously. Although the book was regarded as shocking, it had become an immediate popular success, and new books by "the author of *Frankenstein*" might be expected to command a market.

Mary was already at work on a new novel, *The Last Man*, when Sir Timothy's prohibition arrived, but when it was published in 1826 (anonymously as her agreement forbade her to bring her name before the public again), she had included among her characters in the novel thinly veiled portraits both of Shelley and Byron: these were immediately recognized; and the name of the author was widely published.

Sir Timothy probably did not read the book (this advice to Shelley's younger brother was "Never read a book, Johnnie, and you'll be a rich man") but when he discovered that Mary had apparently broken her agreement an immediate stop was ordered to her allowance. It required the patient intervention of lawyers to establish that the fault for releasing the publisher and playmate was resumed. But it had been a near thing. Mary could not survive without the money. Her son, Percy Florence Shelley, had to be educated, and her father, Godwin, and her step-mother seemed fated to an old age of poverty and misery.

At the end of 1826 came the death of Charles Shelley, the poet's son by his first marriage. By the terms of the entail on the property, Percy Florence now became Sir Timothy's heir, due to inherit the baronetcy; estates thought to be worth above £60,000 and an annual income of £5,000-£7,000 a year. The time had surely now arrived for the old man to relax his attitude, but all he would consent to was to increase Mary's allowance by another £100 a year by way of loan, to pay for Percy's education, the money to be repaid to the estate with interest on his death.

Sir Timothy clung desperately to the hope that "there may be some chance of her dying or her son before me". The cruel father-in-law whom Mary had never met seemed determined to continue the vendetta.

It was during these unhappy years of confrontation and frustration that Mary evidently decided on a new attempt to present her own view of her beloved Shelley to the world. The prohibition on bringing dear Shelley's name before the

public" could be technically avoided by using a pseudonym, but more camouflage would be necessary than she had applied in *The Last Man* if Sir Timothy's wrath was to be avoided. Mary hit on a device which she was to employ with increasing skill and confidence over the next few years.

She had already, before Sir Timothy's prohibition came into force, surreptitiously introduced portraits of Shelley in some of her stories under fictional names. In *Mahilda*, a novel written in 1819, she called her poet hero Woodville. In *Recollections of Italy*, published in 1824, Shelley is described under the pseudonym of Edmund Malville. It can now be seen that in the 1830s she took a decision to resume writing *romans à clef* under the same key. Her descriptions of Shelley are all written about characters whose names include variants of *vill*.

In writing successful *romans à clef* it is vital to separate clearly what is intended to be fact from what is intended to be fiction. You can write true stories about fictitious people or you can describe real people and put them in fictitious situations. To mix the two methods leads to confusion and tends to destroy the credibility of the whole exercise. Mary chose the second method—describing real people in fictitious stories—and it is only the descriptions of the characters with *vill* names which the reader should regard as true, not the story. This means that the relevant character sketches can be carefully buried where the unsuspecting reader might overlook them.

In *The Mourners* published in 1830 Shelley appears under the name Horace Neville. Then in *The Dream*, published in 1832, Mary herself appears as a beautiful lady emerging from a long grief, Constance Courtesse de Villeneuve.

But these are the preliminaries only. In 1832 Mary embarked on a new full-scale novel which was published in 1835 as *Lodore*. On this occasion she made no secret to her close friends that the novel contained "true" incidents, and it is possible to pick out a number with confidence. But under the convention which she had adopted the key begins and ends with descriptions of the characters.

Shelley had greatly admired the literary technique, invented by Mary's father, Godwin, of binding two characters in a story so closely together (usually in mutual hatred) that the reader comes to see that they are essentially only separated halves of a single personality. Mary herself had used the technique to marvelous effect in *Frankenstein*. What could be more appropriate therefore than to introduce two key figures representing two aspects of Shelley, each with a different *vill*, Edward Villiers, and Horatio Saville?

This method gave Mary more opportunities for description and also allowed Shelley to be defended against a wider range of misrepresentation and misrepresentation. Only a few brief extracts can be included from the many in the book.

Edward Villiers is the young, confident, thoughtful, free-spirited Shelley before his full genius matured. "He was a young man—certainly not more than three and twenty. An air of London fashion . . . was combined with a most prepossessing countenance. He was light haired and blue eyed; ingenuousness and sincerity marked his physiognomy. The few words he had spoken were enforced by a graceful cordiality of manner, and a silver toned voice that won the heart."

Horatio Saville is a different Shelley—melancholic, bowed down by worry, his hopes insecure and his moods unpredictable, yet still the same angelic figure that occurs in all Mary's descriptions.

"Resolute, aspiring and true, his noble purposes and studious soul, demanded a frame of iron, and he had one of the frailest mechanism. It was not that he was not tall, well-shaped, with earnest eyes, a brow built up high to receive and entertain a capacious mind; but he was thin and shadowy, a hectic flushed his cheek, and his voice was broken and mournful."

If Mary Shelley had been writing a novel in the fully Godwinian tradition, she would have made the two men enemies, but that would have introduced a discordant ele-



Shelley and Mary in St Pancras churchyard, by W. P. Frith, R.A.

ment: so instead they are made complementary.

"Divided they are not either of them half what they were joined. Horace is so prudent so wise, considerate, so sympathizing; Edward so active and so kind hearted. In any difficulty, we always asked Horace what we ought to do; and Edward did the thing which he pointed out."

It was a bold stroke, and *Lodore* seems to have passed without complaint from Sir Timothy. But when application was made for an increase in the advance—Percy was about to go to Harrow—this was refused. Mary therefore began to compose another novel, which was published in 1837 as *Falkner*.

She had apparently already said most of what she wanted to say about Shelley, but in *Falkner* we have yet another version, Gerard Neville, "a poet and a dreamer", very young, persecuted, and hated by his father.

"Craved he was not—every word he spoke showed a perfect possession of acute faculties—but it was almost worse to see so much misery in one so young. In person, he was a model of beauty and grace. His mind seemed formed with equal perfection; a quick apprehension, a sensibility, all alive to every touch; but these were nursed in anguish and wrong, and strained from their true conclusions into resentment, suspicion, and a fierce disdain of all who injured, which seemed to his morbid feelings all who named or approached him."

The final extract from near the end of the book is almost in the nature of a farewell.

"No one could see Gerard Neville without feeling that something angelic—something nobly disinterested—was unobscured in his purity, yet beyond the usual nature of man, sympathetic, animated, a countenance that was all sensibility, genius, and love."

With these sad descriptions of Shelley written 15 years after his death, Mary Shelley completed the series of idealized portraits of the poet under the *vill* key. Woodville (1819), Edmund Malville (1824), Horace Neville (1830), Edward Villiers and Horatio Saville (1835), and Gerard Neville (1837).

There is another *vill* charac-

ter in *Lodore*—Mrs Greville, described as a "kind-hearted humane woman" but not otherwise characterized. The American background of her husband's family is outlined in considerable detail, and this gives a possible clue. Could she be intended to represent that shadowy figure Shelley's mother?

But what of Shelley's father, the mean old man whose ignorant malevolence had made all this mystification necessary? Was it anger and frustration at Sir Timothy which caused Mary in 1831 to choose the name M de Marville for "an aristocrat of the most bigoted species", in her story *The Swiss Peasant*? It seems likely, for in *Falkner* Mary took her revenge and this time she was blunt and merciless.

If anyone still doubts whether *vill* is a deliberate key and suspects that the proliferation of *vill* names may just be the fortuitous coincidences of a rather unimaginative and repetitive author, then Sir Boyvill Neville, the father of Gerard Neville in *Falkner*, surely provides knock-out proof. For Mary, in order to indicate that this character is a *vill* in his own right and not to be regarded by the reader just as the father of the key figure Gerard Neville, has had to give him a double-*vill* name and to invent a convincing forename unknown to the *Oxford Book of Christian Names*.

Sir Boyvill was a man who made his presence felt disagreeably, even when it was limited to a few hours. Strangers acknowledged this; no one liked the scornful, morose old man; and a near connexion who was open to so many attacks, and sincerely loved one whom Sir Boyvill pretended most to deprecate, was even more susceptible to the painful feelings he always contrived to spread round him. To despise everybody, to contradict everybody with marks of sarcasm and contempt, to set himself up for an idol, and yet to scorn his worshippers: these were the prominent traits of his character, added to a galled and sore spirit, which was for ever taking offence, which discerned an attack in every word, and was on the alert to repay these fancied injuries with real and undoubted insult."

One of Sir Boyvill's descriptions of his son catches the Timothy's attitude to Percy Bysshe Shelley perfectly. "Gerard is a very pleasant person; if I said he was half madman half fool, I should certainly say too much and appear an unkind father; but the sort of imbecility that characterizes his understanding is, I think, only equalled by his self-willed defiance of all laws which society has established; in conduct he very much resembles a lunatic armed with a weapon of offence, which he does not fear himself, and deals about on those unfortunately connected with him, with the same indifference to wounds."

Before *Falkner* was published, Mary had received an attractive offer from a publisher to prepare an edition of Shelley's works with a memoir. Sir Timothy naturally refused, but he appears to have been persuaded by his lawyer 'Gregg' that no harm could be done, since public interest was already so high, by allowing publication of the works.

To Mary's joy she was allowed to prepare the edition of Shelley's poetry which she had longed to undertake ever since the suppression of *Posthumous Poems* in 1824, and in the event *The Poetical Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley* which appeared in 1839 was to ensure that Shelley was at last numbered among the English poets. It was a considerable achievement. Although, as agreed, there could be no memoir of the author, Mary included voluminous notes which explained the circumstances of the composition of many of the poems and incidentally provided a good deal of biographical information.

It was not the method Mary would have chosen, but to judge from other writings, it was probably more effective than the gushing, unconvincing and self-justificatory biography she would perhaps have written had she been free.

She has also succeeded beautifully at last in evading Sir Timothy's prohibition, and in 1840 she drove home her advantage. She published, as a companion to the *Poetical Works*, a volume entitled *Essays, Letters from Abroad, Translations and Fragments, by Percy Bysshe Shelley*, edited by Mrs

Shelley, containing a miscellany of Shelley's prose works, some reprinted, some printed for the first time, and a large selection of personal letters. After publishing these volumes Mary never wrote another story or used the *vill* key again. She had, it seems, built her monument and no more secret devices were needed.

But who, if anyone, was the *vill* key intended for in the first place? If Mary was writing for herself alone, why publish (and run the risk of being discovered)? Why not commit her descriptions and feelings to her private journal? Or if her objective was to leave a record of her view of Shelley's character, could she not have written it carefully and openly at leisure, to be published after Sir Timothy's death. Did she fear that anything she wrote, unless it was committed to print during her lifetime, might not survive to be read by future generations, and that knowledge of the "true" nature of Shelley would be irretrievably lost?

This suggested explanation gains support when we try to account for another major *vill* character not so far mentioned. Among the most important characters in Volume 3 of *Lodore* is Clorinda who becomes the wife of Horace Neville and unless the reader is on the look-out for the key, he will probably not remember that when first introduced at the beginning of Volume 2, she is described as "daughter of the Principe Villamarina" and the key-word is not repeated. For Clorinda is Emilia Viviani the lady to whom Shelley's poem *Epipsychidion* is addressed.

If we try to imagine Mary Shelley in 1833, morbidly anxious that the world would be misled by the evil reputation of Shelley and of his poetry, we can see that *Epipsychidion* presents a particular problem. The poem was published anonymously in 1821 and contains some of Shelley's most unambiguous statements of his philosophy of love and his rejection of marriage as an institution.

"I never was attached to that great sect. Whose doctrine is, that each one should select Out of the crowd a mistress or friend, And all the rest, though fair and wise, commend To cold oblivion, though it is in the code Of modern morals, and the heads of the learned. Which those poor slaves with weary footsteps tread, Who travel to their home among the dead By the broad highway of the world, and so With one chained friend, perhaps a jealous foe, The dearest and longest journey go. True love in this differs from gold and clay, That to divide is not to take away."

The poem contains much that fits badly with Shelley's widow's wish to regard him as a model husband on the conventional pattern, including character descriptions of Mary herself and of the other women in Shelley's life, well-hidden under various metaphors and classical allusions. Most embarrassing of all, it is, at one level, apparently a straightforward love poem directly addressed to Emilia.

"I never thought before my death to see Youth's vision thus made perfect. Emily I love thee; though the world by no thin name Will hide that love, from its unvalued shame."

In *Lodore* Emilia's beauty is blown up and then deflated. There is much on the theme that Shelley had a concept of ideal beauty and ideal love which inadvertently was attached to Emilia. Most of all Mary was concerned to emphasize that (whatever a reader might think from *Epipsychidion*) Shelley's feelings for Emilia were not passionate love but the tender attachment of a brother.

"Saville pities her; he lamented her future fate among her unworthy countenances; he longed to cherish, to comfort, and benefited her. His heart, so easily warm to tenderness gave her really a brother's regard. Others seeing the active benevolence and lively interest that this sentiment elicited might have fancied him inspired by a warmer feeling, but he well knew the difference, he ardently desired her happiness, but did not seek his own in hers."

But why *vill*? Obviously, from a technical literary point of view, it offers a multiplicity of plausible variations. But is there some direct connexion with Shelley? Shelley loved such mystifications and his poetry contains many personal allusions, notably in *Epipsychidion*. Mary's father William Godwin too had carried the art of names to subtle lengths in his novels, normally choosing second-order historical figures from seventeenth century England to give added point to his characters—Falkland in *Caleb Williams* for example, reminds the reader of Viscount Falkland, the over-chivalrous Secretary of State to Charles I.

During 1817 when Godwin was in close contact with the Shelleys he was at work on *Mandeville*, a name of which he was proud and which he wanted kept secret from the Shelleys until publication. The name is certainly well chosen according to Godwin's style for it not only echoes the Mandeville who wrote about man in society in *The Fable of the Bees*, but it has an appropriate suggestion of Man Devil. The book includes a debate which was seen by some at the time as a representation of the philosophic argument between Godwin and Shelley, and Shelley himself seemed to acknowledge some personal connexion with himself when he reviewed the book. *Mandeville* remains a puzzle. But about the origin of Godwin's other major *vill* character, there was never any doubt.

"Her step was airy and light as that of a young fawn, yet at the same time firm, and indicative of strength of body and vigour of mind. Her voice, like the whole of her external appearance, was expressive of undesigning. I had almost said, childish simplicity. Yet, with all this playfulness of appearance, her understanding was bold and correct. Her mind was well furnished with the things that could add to her accomplishments as a wife or mother."

Marguerite de Damville in Godwin's novel *St Leon* published in 1799 was universally recognized as an idealised portrait of Mary's mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, famous author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, who had died tragically a few days after Mary's birth in 1797.

I would guess that she is the origin and the model for Mary Shelley's choice of the *vill* key. Shelley and Mary were fully familiar with the story of Mary's mother and with her Christian name. She had cleared their love over her grave in St Pancras Churchyard? They also knew and admired Godwin's writings, and *St Leon* was a favourite. No doubt because of the lovable picture in it presented of the famous mother that Mary Shelley had never known.

On 9 October, 1817, Mary's journal records that she and Shelley read *St Leon* aloud. At this time *Frankenstein* was being finished for the printer and both Mary and Shelley played a part in the last stages. Shelley, for example, writing the Preface. The book begins and ends with a series of letters from Robert Walton, an explorer stuck in ice near the North Pole which describes his meeting *Frankenstein*.

Walton is thus a pre-shadow (and after-shadow) of *Frankenstein*, almost as fanatical in his search for the pole as *Frankenstein* is in his pursuit of the secret of life and his quest of the Monster. Walton (who has been a poet) is a Shelleyan figure, as many critics have noticed.

But what significance should we attach to the fact that Walton's letters are addressed to his married sister in England called Margaret Saville? Does Margaret Saville signify Mary Shelley in some kind of private joke between Mary and Shelley, in which Godwin may have shared? There is no hint or clue anywhere among Mary's surviving letters or journals during the years when she might have been expected to have pointed out the key. After the publication of Shelley's poetical works in 1839 she must have decided to forget it altogether.

Sir Timothy Shelley lived on to die at last in 1844 aged 90. Percy Florence inherited the title and the estate, and for a few years Mary was both happy and financially comfortable. She died in 1851 at the age of 53, taking the secret of the *vill* key with her.

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Radio The treatment as before

In years of writing about radio certain topics keep on coming up: one is the medium's continuing neglect of what might be termed the "soft" sciences—those that try to discover what sorts of creatures we are and how we got to be that way; another is its apparent inability in several fields—drama, features, comedy—to exploit its own well-tried talent in the world of the imagination. The last happens, another of these topics is going to be its treatment of the threat of nuclear war. Last October, BBC Radio 4's *Nuclear Debate* was followed by November's *The Jury* on the worst-kept secret of Britain's civil defence plans and both proved to be more interesting in dramatic, irreconcilable confrontations between owners of the one hand, disarmers on the other than in anything else. Now *File on 4* has joined their number with last week's programme by Robert Fox about the revival of CND.

Recruitment, we were told, is once more on the up-and-up with membership standing at 14,000 and rising, while Labour in opposition has embraced unilateral disarmament as party policy. Well, Labour entered into their embrace before and then got out of it. What will it do next faced with the realities of international affairs? CND revives presumably because the threat of nuclear war seems greater than it was, but does it in fact carry any more clout relative to the situation than it ever did when it was 50,000 strong? Last Wednesday evening's speakers for the Government gave no reason to believe that Britain has the least intention of disarming unilaterally. The prospect of official action and CND reaction may get us nowhere very much as it did before and both parties could still be in the same old state of confrontation if and when the missiles start to fly.

In which case what I want to know is not how dramatically irreconcilable they are but how I and as many others as possible might be able to survive the calamity if it comes. Of course, as Mr Fox in his this week's Listener piece remarks, merely to mention such a matter (ie, civil defence) is in the eyes of some to imply "accepting nuclear war as a probability". The sane point of view was put in one of this paper's leaders on January 19, 1980: "It is not alarmist to make reasonable preparation. Civil defence does not imply war any more than fire insurance implies arson. The lack of preparation is a lethal failure of duty." By a curious irony I have that quotation at my fingertips courtesy of an item which has just come through my letter-box, an announcement from the forthcoming Brains Trust on nuclear shelters and how to survive attack organized by the Nuclear Protection Advisory Group. The heart of the irony lies in the fact that this is to take place just as the stone to grow up the road from that most famous address in Portland Place of whom I am tempted to ask what sort of failure of duty we are now witnessing in its role as public service broadcaster.

On the subject of calamity, it seems appropriate to consider Radio 4's new comedy series, *Patterbox* by Malcolm Bradbury and Christopher Bigsby which, when it was announced two months ago, raised the faint hope that radio comedy might be about to take much needed steps for the better. Thursday night back the waiting and the hoping ended: we heard the first of eight half-hour episodes on which our eponym took up a post as host in the lecture hall of one of the less ancient universities and was presented to his future colleagues: to wit, one voluble Welshman, one departmental man, one wait for it—absent-minded professor—and there were others. A week ago those of us who still had the stomach for it learnt of Patterson's attendance at the Vice-Chancellor's party and how he set a borrowed dinner jacket on fire (the joke been reading *Lucky Jim*?). At the time of writing I have yet to hear spasm 3 and am inclined to give it a miss. Why bore myself silly with another thirty minutes of a script which bears all the marks of having been desperately put together in the desperate absence of any ideas, lines or situations worth laughing at?

The worst is that, however Patterson may pretend to status, at a quite ordinary level it is incompetent. For example if most of the old hands contributing to comedy—such as it is—on Radios 2 and 4 had been asked to portray a professor who never quite manages to sustain a sentence to its end, they would have given some good actor as could be grateful for Messrs Bradbury and Bigsby with all their literary gifts do not bring off even that and Richard Vernon is to be heard struggling painfully with his part. As for writing something to take advantage of the comic possibilities of radio—not a glimmer.

So has radio done nothing in the week gone by? Oh yes, plenty. For one thing, Peter Everett produced *The Illus* (travelling Orwell) which he watched when he was out in London and when he took the road to Wigan Pier with the circumstances of today.

David Wade

Class of the British

Class and Corporation, by Graeme Salaman; Social Mobility, by Anthony Heath; Culture, by Raymond Williams (Fontana, £2.50 each)

A colleague told me recently of an excellent first year undergraduate who had come to see him in a state of some anxiety. He was quite sure he was wanted to read sociology in his second and third years. In his first year, he had been fascinated by the idea of understanding more about the society in which he lived, its beliefs and ideologies, customs, institutions, organizations. But, at the time, he was genuinely worried about the attitude of his fellow students: fearful that he would be regarded, however falsely, as someone who was selecting a "soft option", or radical posturing which were so associated with the subject in the late Sixties and early Seventies.

There are no such doubts about the status of the subject among the three authors in this new Fontana series, no uncertainties at all about the value of radical sociological work on social mobility, corporate power, and culture. In a tough-minded trio, it is Salaman who emerges as most cautious. For although his subject is the organization of corporate power in industrialized societies, he spends little time on any of the dramatic material which has been the stuff of so many recent headlines. So we hear little about British Leyland or the Steel Corporation or ICI, and instead are safely reassured that the subject of debate on the relative merits of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber, I am not sufficiently Philistine to subscribe to the view of one eminent British sociologist that there should be no place on the use of such names in contemporary texts. But certainly a little more feel for the concrete immediacy of such issues as labour-discipline, bureaucracy, management, and workers control, would have

Den of prefects

The Inklings: C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and their Friends, by Humphrey Carpenter (Unwin, £2.95)

They picked the name up almost by accident. It had been left lying around by one of those evanescent undergraduate literary clubs of the early Thirties, where members read aloud their fledgling compositions. The dons Tolkien and Lewis were associates, and when the club disappeared they transferred the title to a more intimate group of their own. "It was pleasantly ingenious," said Tolkien, "suggesting people with vague or half-formed intimations and 'den', plus those who dabble in ink." They got together, in rather offhand fashion, at luncheon on Tuesdays in "The Eagle and Child" (known familiarly as "The Bird and Baby"), and Lewis's rooms in Magdalen. Tea, and stronger beverages, were drunk. Arguments were propounded. Work in progress was unveiled and discussed—not least some of Lewis's spiritual science fiction—large chunks of *The Lord of the Rings* (inaudibly read by the author), and Williams's Arthurian poems, which were by no means of the taste, or the comprehension, of all the gathering.

The very informality of these meetings, however regular their occurrence, makes them an awkward subject for a book and Humphrey Carpenter meets the difficulty with some nicely judged irony. He tells us, though for quite a lot of the time he has the cast

given a welcome edge to this scholarly text.

Much of Salaman's argument is given over to an attack on the "managerial" view of industrial relations: with Marx close by his side, he is busily intent upon restoring a class analysis to our understanding of such matters. He is a discussion of class mobility necessarily takes a different route. Not exactly away from class analysis but into the complications which the evidence about social mobility creates for any simple statement about the class structure of the society. This is a notoriously difficult area, with convoluted disagreements about how "open" British society is, how such openness might be measured, the exact impact of women's employment, the validity of comparing different societies. And even if Hent's conclusions are so qualified as to verge on the faint-hearted, he writes with such care and clarity that he can relax in the knowledge that his book must surely become a standard text on the subject.

Raymond Williams hardly needs any new laurels upon which to rest. But any initial suspicion that this latest addition to his long line of cultural analyses might be a rather lacklustre reworking of previous work is quickly dispelled. Indeed, in places, Williams seems to have many urgent things to say about the many meanings of the word "culture", the relationship between "cultural producers" and the society in which they live, the links between aesthetics and sociology, that the reader almost finds himself breathing on the author's behalf. No one who manages to hang on to Williams's constant stream of ideas and insights will be surprised that his book matters has been lost. In spite of the terseness and obscurity of *On the Art of Poetry*, it has had a greater influence on subsequent events than any other work of the ancient world. Sixteen sentences of it have given rise to whole volumes. Castelvetro's vast commentary of 1576 was thirty times as long as its text. It also foisted on Aristotle the spurious concept of the Three

An excellent set of books to start this new series. Their thoroughgoing scholarly tone of optimistic seriousness provides just the right sort of tonic for hesitant undergraduates and perhaps—dare one say it—just one or two tutors.

Laurie Taylor



Heads in search of a paperback by R. P. Gossop from Treasury of Art Nouveau & Ornament by Carol Grafton (Constable, £2.50).

Pity and terror

Tragedy, by F. L. Lucas (Chatto & Windus, £2.95)

This study of serious drama in relation to Aristotle's *Poetics*, first published in hard covers 53 years ago, remains a marvellously enjoyable piece of pre-Leavisite, pre-Structuralist, old-fashioned literary criticism. In a mixture of colour and unpolished and unpublished lecture notes towards the end of his life, when Aeschylus had been dead for rather more than a century. The second book matter has been lost. In spite of the terseness and obscurity of *On the Art of Poetry*, it has had a greater influence on subsequent events than any other work of the ancient world. Sixteen sentences of it have given rise to whole volumes. Castelvetro's vast commentary of 1576 was thirty times as long as its text. It also foisted on Aristotle the spurious concept of the Three

Unities, which shackled the classical dramatists of the seventeenth century from Corneille and Racine to Jonson. Ideas like catharsis are still part of the jargon of Lit. Crit. Few sentences in literature, ancient or modern, have contained a fiercer burnet's nest of undying, stinging, controversial ideas about the definition of tragedy, which goes something like: Tragedy is a representation of a serious, complete in itself, and of a certain length; it is expressed in speech made beautiful in different ways; it is acted, not narrated; it awakens pity and fear, and in a healthy relief to such emotions.

Now steady on, dear old Stagirite, with your passion for classification. Can one really have too much pity so that one goes to the theatre to be purged of it? Should we think of poetry as the lava of the imagination, whose eruption prevents an earthquake? Aristotle's answers may be dark and out of date. But he had a genius for asking the right questions, which is why he is

still read and glossed and argued about from China to Peru. Mr Lucas, who died in 1967, was a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and a critic and scholar of the old school: widely read in all the European languages from Webster to Hegel, sane, urbane, dry, a trifle anti-modernist. His book about tragedy is as full of felicitous, apt quotations, and interesting ideas as *Homer's* is full of quotations. From every page shines his love of the theatre and his belief in its importance. It is not necessary to agree with Lucas or Aristotle about the answers to the big questions. What is the emotional effect of tragedy? Why do we enjoy on the stage things that would depress or horrify us in real life? What matters most for the playwright, plot or the power to create a brave new world that has such people in it? It is important to carry on asking them; and to recognize that serious drama on the stage, or in the theatre between one's ears, remains one of the great consolations of the tragedies of life.

Philip Howard

Four-letter man

The Wilt Alternative, by Tom Sharpe (Pan, £1.25)

This is not so much an alternative as a post-requisite for Sharpe-hunters who have already read *Wilt*, the satirical farce about Henry Wilt, lecturer in Liberal Studies at a provincial tech, whose life would have been so boring had Tom Sharpe not invented him. This time Henry (what's in a name?) is expressed not only via a formidable wife, phoney colleagues, semiliterate students and the obtuse forces of law and order, but also by female quadruplets whose four-letter vocabulary rivals his own.

Mr Sharpe shares with James Thurber and Private Eye, the ability to make me laugh, and with the second of these at least he has much else in common. His technique is to

confront quite a well-drawn stereotype with a problem to which he/she applies a kind of jinked logic. Among the characteristics of his anti-heroes is an inability to crack nuts without using a sledgehammer. Thus Lieutenant Verkramp in *Indecent Exposure*, concerned by the weakness for black girls among his South African police subordinates, puts them through a fustian course of aversion therapy: thus Zipser, the grammar school product in *Porterhouse Blue*, when anxious to dispose of a crate-load of contraceptives, inflicts them at his gas fire and launches them via the chimney of his posh Cambridge college; and thus in *Wilt*, the eponymous Henry resenting his subjugation by Eva can think of no simpler solution than to murder her. This is not his best book. At no point does it match the sharp observation of *Porterhouse Blue*, the hilarity of *Indecent Exposure* the outrageous, small-town salacity of *Wilt*. In the manner of a satir-

cal cartoonist Mr Sharpe has made an art-form out of bad taste. But it does not, cannot, always work. And for the first half of *The Wilt Alternative* the obscurities of a tiresome substitute for comic invention. It improves as Mr Sharpe advances his plot towards the usual mayhem, but I was still left with the feeling that having resolved to capitalize upon the success of *Wilt*, he found himself struggling to extend the joke. I am sure that even terrorists can be made to seem funny, but these were simply unpleasant, and the Sharpe fell a little flat. Perhaps I could end with a personal invocation to Tom Sharpe to return one of these days to the South African township of Pietermaritzburg, sleeping under the sun and the uncompromising rule of Kommandant van Heerden. Van Heerden with his passion for Dorndorf Yares is a joke who, I think, could make me laugh again... and again.

Henry Stanhope

Let's do it

The British in Love: An Annotated Anthology, by Jilly Cooper (Penguin, £1.25)

Dear Jilly, if you will forgive that from an unmet reader: I see from the back cover blurb that you are dazzling, witty and, as the dissolution of the Inklings came about through complex shifts of adult reaction. Religious differences, the contrasting claims of academic reserve and public success, the hints of personal jealousies all of the group, and through his discussion of these—the peculiar influence and the death of Charles Williams, say, or the portrayal of the sad division between Tolkien and Lewis and Mr Carpenter's book moves on to a different level from that of a merely parochial chronicle.

Brian Anderson

Once a Hungarian

Left in the gents at La Coupole as a baby by his absent-minded father (he was rescued some 24 hours later) pursued by a shark a mile across the bay as he swam in the direction of Southern California—a wealth of good stories pours from the life and times of Michael Korda, author of *Charmless Lines* (Penguin, £2.50) and son of Vincent Korda, the youngest of the three Korda brothers.

He tells the story of his father and his uncles, Alex, and Zoltan, all three of whom worked as founding fathers of the British film industry (now deceased). Michael Korda himself is in publishing. Editor in Chief of the huge New York firm of Simon and Schuster, but just quite why he went into publishing he is not exactly sure. "I didn't pick it," he tells me "it fell into me on a temporary basis."

His childhood could not be described as a typical one—he was born in England, educated in England, America, and Switzerland, went to Oxford, did his National Service. His parents were divorced, and living in separate continents. "Everybody has an unhappy childhood," he declares, adding that he spent a great deal of his time wondering if he was like his famous father, or his uncle Alex. "Alex was an inimitable figure, but it took me a while to learn this—about 35 years—

that I didn't have to be like him." Michael was an only child, and missed the close companionship he could see between his father and his uncles, a truce which he traces with love and care from their birth in a small Hungarian village through their lives as characters on an international stage, with friends and contacts throughout the world.

There was a time when Michael had to decide. "It took me until 1958. I am not English. I am basically American. England ought to be my native country, but I was not comfortable about it. In 1953 I came over to New York." "The British class system pissed me off. The British class system has always pissed me off. There are people like Alex, or George Weidenfeld, who crash through the British class system. My father made no effort at all to fit into the system—he could see no real difference between the Duke of Bedford and Admiral Horatio—both reactionary authority figures, and therefore bad. He was an eccentric, and the English love eccentrics. "I could have manufactured myself into an upper class Englishman if I had wanted to make the effort, but it would also have been very false." He also lightheartedly defines the problem that, not having gone to Eton, one felt inferior to Etonians: on the other hand,

having attended Le Rosey, one felt superior to everybody; and being a Korda, to everybody at Le Rosey. The Korda brothers, having settled in England, felt that Englishness and domesticity went together, and acquired English wives and English children, nannies and mothers-in-law. Having done that, they were bored by it, what they really loved was going to Rome and Paris and Hollywood. It was probably very damaging to most of the children, not to speak of the wives, but it's very understandable."

One of Michael Korda's favourite stories is of his uncle Alex in a gambling club in 1940 with other central Europeans. "They were sitting around playing roulette and talking in Hungarian. Otto Freunberger got more and more annoyed, and finally turned round to Alex and said 'Hey, you guys, knock it off, you're in America now, talk German.'"

In a way, he says, this kind of story is why he had to write the book to convey the vitality and energy of the European Jewish talent, sometimes a specifically Jewish talent. The energy from 20 generations in the ghettos was released by the First World War out of the shattered social structure of Europe. Alexander Korda feared another blood bath of

some kind, and he went to London—a journey that took in Berlin, Vienna, Paris, London and America—and in none of these places could he ever be considered as just a visitor. It is still the coffee house humour of central Europe, his nephew feels, that permeates Korda's most celebrated film, *The Private Life of Henry VIII*. He himself was born on the night of the premiere.

His sympathetic portrayal of Alex, his uncle's third wife, some 30 years younger than he, reveals, in the end, a tragic figure. "I realize that I could just as easily have written the story as comedy, even farce, but I think it was a great tragedy." He also wanted to recreate the 1940s and early 1950s, the years of "Sir Stafford Cripps and Sir Bernard and Lady Dicker and Diana Dors" a period swamped by the appearance of the protest writers and the literary class struggle of the early 1960s. Aunt Muriel Oberon, Alexander Korda's second wife, hated the book, preferring the legend to the facts, but the two are intermingled in the subtitle of the book *A Family Romance* and the result is irresistible. It's all that residual Hungarian charm. For all his identification with America, Michael Korda bears not a little resemblance to his uncle Alex.

Philippa Toomey

Paperbacks

The game's afoot again

The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Penguin £2.95)

The profile on the cover is that of the only Englishman who is as universally identifiable as Mickey Mouse. Deerstalker, magnifying-glass, hooked nose, and hooked pipe (why never the clay or the long cherry-stem?)—an instantly recognised symbol from Tokyo to Tahiti and Tibet. It is rather endearing that the most admired of our national heroes should be a character from fiction, but this only helps to show that myth is more potent than reality. In the same way, the only bits of history that every schoolboy knows are not who imprisoned Montezuma and who strangled Atahualpa but things which never happened, like Alfred and the cakes or Raleigh and his cloak. But is Sherlock Holmes today more than the patriarch of detectives, to whose name a few quotations and misquotations have become attached? Presumably he is, for he remains in print in many languages, and now here is the whole of him in one volume, just about a hundred years after it all started. (The events recorded in *A Study in Scarlet* took place in 1879; almost all the cases described in the *Adventures* and *Memoirs* in the 1890s.) This volume runs to over a thousand pages of close but legible print, and I have discovered that it is perfectly possible to read the whole lot through from beginning to end without a trace of boredom—never once reaching for the violin or hypodermic syringe. What other authors could pass a similar test?

The plots and atmosphere of the stories have lost none of their magic. I first read *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at the age of about eleven, when holidaying on Dartmoor, and hardly liked to go more than a hundred yards from the hotel even in daylight. Even now the

strange cry which "came with the wind through the silence of the night, a low, deep mutter, then a rising howl, and then the sad moan in which it died away", is better read about indoors and well away from Dartmoor. Residences such as Pouchberry Lodge and Stoke Moran seem just as uninviting places in which to spend the night.

Nor did I find, as some do, the later stories (*His Last Bow* and the *Caschhook*) notably inferior to the earlier ones, even when read immediately after them. Ronald Knox suggested that the post-Reichenbach stories might be written off as "clumsy travesties" patched together by Holmes's biographer after his mentor and wife had died, and he himself, like his unfortunate brother, had taken to drink. But that is going too far. The *Bruce-Partington Plans* and *The Problem of Thor Bridge*, for example, seem good second-class numbers, quite able to stand beside those of earlier vintage. What a rereading of the whole canon does do is to reinforce earlier impressions, such as, for example, that a much greater part in Holmes's life was played by masons than by identifiable Christians, let alone clergymen, and what a lot of Australians there seem to have been a century ago who, having made a fortune in their native country, came to England to enjoy or enlarge on it.

Finally, of course, a rereading provides the opportunity for choosing a new favourite quotation. After much consideration I think for now it must be: *His dress was rich with a richness which would, in England, be looked upon as akin to bad taste. Heavy bands of astrakhan were slashed across the sleeves and fronts of his double-breasted coat, while the deep blue cloak which was thrown over his shoulders was lined with flame-coloured silk and secured at the neck with a bow of his dainty fingers, which consisted of a single flaming beryl.*

And a made-up tie, too, I shouldn't be surprised.

E. C. Hodgkin

Panorama of war

Confederates, by Thomas Keneally (Fontana, £1.95)

The business of *Confederates* is war, or, to zero in a little, the American Civil War. Not that Thomas Keneally is himself much addicted to zeroing in. He keeps his canvas as vast as possible and his concern is as much with the conscripts as with the captains; the volunteers get just as large a show as the likes of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. There are even peeks across the enemy line to find out what Abe Lincoln's men were doing about defending Washington against the great flanking movement which helped cost the South the war.

The crosscutting from scene to scene is as old as Hollywood itself, as is switch made from the mighty and glorious to the scavenging and inglorious. And perhaps it is even older: Shakespeare used much the same technique in *Henry V*. Keneally uses no narrator but himself, an excellent one he is. Nor does he have a central character, unless it be (Isiah) Bumpass who begins as a Virginia farmer married to a young wife to whom he eventually returns, foul-smelling.

John Higgins

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20	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1969	Good
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24	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1973	Good
25	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1974	Good
26	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1975	Good
27	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1976	Good
28	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1977	Good
29	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1978	Good
30	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1979	Good
31	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1980	Good
32	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1981	Good
33	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1982	Good
34	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1983	Good
35	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1984	Good
36	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1985	Good
37	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1986	Good
38	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1987	Good
39	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1988	Good
40	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1989	Good
41	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1990	Good
42	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1991	Good
43	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1992	Good
44	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1993	Good
45	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1994	Good
46	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1995	Good
47	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1996	Good
48	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1997	Good
49	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1998	Good
50	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	1999	Good
51	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2000	Good
52	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2001	Good
53	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2002	Good
54	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2003	Good
55	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2004	Good
56	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2005	Good
57	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2006	Good
58	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2007	Good
59	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2008	Good
60	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2009	Good
61	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2010	Good
62	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2011	Good
63	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2012	Good
64	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2013	Good
65	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2014	Good
66	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2015	Good
67	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2016	Good
68	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2017	Good
69	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2018	Good
70	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2019	Good
71	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2020	Good
72	Mr. S. S. S. S. S.	Oil	2021	Good
73				

Wednesday	3:30 p.m.	TONTÉ, Jean piano	Paulo Bonaldi No. 1 in G, Op. 33. Franz Liszt: 3rd Concerto in E-flat Franz: Sonata in A for violin & piano
Thursday	3:30 p.m.	MARIE LEONHARDT STEPHEN PRESTON JAA PETER LINDEN	Wilmore Master Course Lect. A Title LES NATIONS European Baroque music Franz Liszt: 3rd Concerto in E-flat Franz: 3rd Concerto in E-flat Franz: 3rd Concerto in E-flat Franz: 3rd Concerto in E-flat
Friday	3:30 p.m.	SUSAN BRADSHAW piano JOHN TILLEY piano	The European Connection Franz Liszt: 3rd Concerto in E-flat Franz Liszt: 3rd Concerto in E-flat Franz Liszt: 3rd Concerto in E-flat Franz Liszt: 3rd Concerto in E-flat

50 ALIA MYERS, piano Handel: Sulle m. E. m. n.;

<p>March 29 p.m.</p> <p>JOHN HUNTER <i>Cl.</i> 1.00, <i>SS</i> 2.00, <i>Tr</i> 1.00. Helen Jennings Concert Agency</p>	<p>Sonata Op. 12; Timothy Salters: Chopin: Sonata Op. 10, No. 3; Beethoven: No. 6; Elgar: Suite in G minor; Chopin: Sonata Op. 25.</p>
<p>Saturday 30 March 8:35 p.m.</p> <p>RICHARD STOLTZMAN <i>Cl.</i> 1.00, <i>SS</i> 2.00, <i>Tr</i> 1.00. JOHN DANIEL AX piano <i>Cl.</i> 3.00, <i>SS</i> 4.00, <i>Tr</i> 2.00. <i>Cl.</i> 1.00</p>	<p>Brahms: Clarinet Sonata Op. 120 No. 2; Chopin: Sonata Op. 2, No. 2 for piano; Schumann: Sonata Op. 10, No. 4; Weber: Grand Duo; Stravinsky: Procs. Wilmow: Master Concerts.</p>
<p>Sunday 31 March 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>MARK HUGGINS violin ROBERT SPILMAN <i>Cl.</i> 1.00, <i>SS</i> 2.00, <i>Tr</i> 1.00. <i>Cl.</i> 3.00, <i>SS</i> 4.00, <i>Tr</i> 2.00.</p>	<p>Beethoven: Sonata in A Op. 2, No. 1; Kreisler: Bach: Solo Sonata in G major; Saint-Saens: 12 Works: Saint-Saens and Rachmaninov</p>

ENGLISH GUITAR Works by Bach, Elzet, Molle
ARTET Brindie. Torroba. Fauré

Sunday 7:30 p.m.	62.60, 62.60, 61.00	Zarandini; Proteus and Finité (all perf)
Tuesday 8 March 3:30 p.m.	ITSUKO TERADA 62.60, 62.60, 51.60, 94.40, Hot'n Jinninaga Secret Accordion	Yatsumasa Lk Jenz Cioce; Schebe Sonata in B flat, Op. Imago Lk 2; Cheppie Andantino Lk 19, Hot'n Jinninaga in 4 min 15 sec
Wednesday 8 March 3:30 p.m.	IRINA ARKHPOVA 62.60+60min CRAIG SHEPHERD piano, 53.50, 55,	Vinsky by Handel, Haydn and Prokof Sons by Brahms, Wolf, Prokofiev Rachmaninov.
Refined Arts	LIONN GORDON piano	Wigmore Master Concerts Dido Sons Schubert's A Tempestuous Op 40, etc

1500m Leaves On 24: Sec
 Studies On 42: Subor:
 Secktenburger's Soace Balm

Thursday March 30 p.m.	THE PARLEY OF INSTRUMENTS Drs. Goodman, Peter Holman, E. 30, 32, 33, 35. 11.30, 11.20	Three Austrian Composers. Works of Mahal, Schmetzer and Biber will be played. Single-Parking natural trump Alvin Mitchell baritone.
Friday March 30 p.m.	MELODS QUARTET OF STUTTGART E. 30, 32, 33, 35. 11.30, 11.20	Schubert Festival 1st of 4 Concerts Schubert's Quartet No 1, Quartet No 1 in G min. Quartet No 15 in E 30 361
IGNORE HALL		Wigmore Master Concerts Live Again
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ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212nd, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312nd, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412nd, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512nd, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612nd, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th,

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

7.40 am Open University: Conic Sections, 8.05 Beyond the Eye, 8.30 News, 9.05 Swims: Levanon four: Front Crawl (r), 9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Over two and a half hours of non-stop entertainment for children introduced by Noel Edmonds, 12.15 pm Weather, 12.15 Grandstand: The line-up today is: 12.20 Football Focus with Bob Wilson, 12.50 World Figure Skating Championships from Hartford, Connecticut, 1.00 News, 1.30 Football Focus, 2.25 and from Haydock at 1.40, 2.15 and 2.40 Live coverage of the Ireland and England Rugby Union match, 3.00 and 3.55 Highlights of the France v Wales match in Paris at approximately 3.00, Final Score is at 4.40, 4.10 De Wito: The New Mrs. Evans, 4.55 Delta: The New Mrs. Evans, Donna Culver marries Ray in to-

News read by Kenneth Kendall: 5.45 Sport, 5.50 The Dukes of Hazzard: The Duke boys help their friendly policeman, Enzo, in his bid to become a city cop, 6.35 Jim'll Fix It: An old juvenile of 30 has his chance to rescue a damsel in distress and an eight-year-old takes pictures with the help of Patrick Littlefield in this week's dramatic-true half hour, 6.40 Navy: A Pinch of Dragon's Blood: Barbara joins the household of a highly successful inventor, but the family's happiness drives her to the point of exhaustion, Starring Wendy Craig, 8.05 The Little and Large Show: The two popular comedians have a singing group Coast to Coast and dancers, Ferry, Feeling at their guests tonight, 8.40 News read by Kenneth Kendall followed by sports roundup, 8.55 Delta: The New Mrs. Evans, Donna Culver marries Ray in to-

night's episode but their happiness is not reflected in the rest of the evening, 9.45 The Duke boys help their friendly policeman, Enzo, in his bid to become a city cop, 9.55 Jim'll Fix It: An old juvenile of 30 has his chance to rescue a damsel in distress and an eight-year-old takes pictures with the help of Patrick Littlefield in this week's dramatic-true half hour, 10.00 Navy: A Pinch of Dragon's Blood: Barbara joins the household of a highly successful inventor, but the family's happiness drives her to the point of exhaustion, Starring Wendy Craig, 10.05 The Little and Large Show: The two popular comedians have a singing group Coast to Coast and dancers, Ferry, Feeling at their guests tonight, 10.40 News read by Kenneth Kendall followed by sports roundup, 10.55 Delta: The New Mrs. Evans, Donna Culver marries Ray in to-

Regions

10.55 Delta: The New Mrs. Evans, Donna Culver marries Ray in to-

BBC 2

7.40 am Open University: Education, 8.05 The Great Escape, 8.30 News, 9.05 Swims: Levanon four: Front Crawl (r), 9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Over two and a half hours of non-stop entertainment for children introduced by Noel Edmonds, 12.15 pm Weather, 12.15 Grandstand: The line-up today is: 12.20 Football Focus with Bob Wilson, 12.50 World Figure Skating Championships from Hartford, Connecticut, 1.00 News, 1.30 Football Focus, 2.25 and from Haydock at 1.40, 2.15 and 2.40 Live coverage of the Ireland and England Rugby Union match, 3.00 and 3.55 Highlights of the France v Wales match in Paris at approximately 3.00, Final Score is at 4.40, 4.10 De Wito: The New Mrs. Evans, 4.55 Delta: The New Mrs. Evans, Donna Culver marries Ray in to-

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are out to thwart a large scale attempt to smuggle drugs into the country, 6.25 Did You See...? Ludovic Kennedy with guests Jane Reed, Philip Norman, Joe Stemples and Chris Dinkley, discuss Parkinson, Russell Harv, Friday Night... Saturday Morning and After Noon, 6.55 News and Sport, 7.10 The Marriage of Figaro: A film of Mozart's famous opera directed by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, starring Hermann Prey, Karin Lehmkuhl and others, 7.40 News, 7.55 Delta: The New Mrs. Evans, Donna Culver marries Ray in to-

at 3.55: Soccer Half-times at 4.00: the result service begins at 4.30, 5.45 Punctured: A thriller with a question mark and Tim Brooke-Taylor and Rula Lenz as the star guests, 5.55 News, 6.00 Back to Back: Time of the Hawk: Part one of a two part serial in which our hero travels to the planet Throm and finds one surviving man-bird, 6.35 3-2-1: The Roots hosts this quiz which this week has as its theme Hobbies Abroad, 7.35 Film: Our Man Flint (1964) starring James Coburn. Our super-

hero, who owns a cigarette lighter that can kill an eighty-two different ways, is on the trail of an assassin who plans to take over the world by manipulating the weather, 8.35 News and Sport, 8.40 The Big Match: Brian Moore introduces highlights from two of today's FA Cup sixth round matches, 10.55 International Snooker: Dickie Davies introduces the final of the Yamaha Organs Trophy from the Derby Assembly Rooms, 12.30 am The Electric Theatre Show: The latest news from the world of the cinema, 12.50 Close with Jack Peel.

FILMS ON TELEVISION

Films on BBC television this week have much the air of an end-of-season clearance sale, with the only real bargain, Howard Hawks' western Rio Branded (Tuesday, BBC 2, 8.45). Even this, however, is not a new film, but a re-run of a 1945 film, with John Wayne in company with an unlikely ensemble of Dean Jagger and Rick Nelson, who have acquired much inflated reputations. When the BBC publicists attribute "cult status" to a director, it usually means they are at loss to find other recommendations for one of his pictures: it certainly comes as news to me that Geri Oswald, a remarkable second string actress in Hollywood, has been elevated. His western Fury at Sundown (Thursday, BBC 2, 8.45) would hardly, as I remem-

ber it, merit a cult. It is followed at 4.50 by Cairo Road, a British thriller of 1950, set in Egypt and starring Eric Portman and a young Lawrence Olivier. False Witness, alias Zigzag (tonight, BBC 1, 10.45) is a thriller with an excessively complicated plot (about a dying insurance investigator who poses as a murderer so as to collect the insurance money) but good performances by George Kennedy, Ann Jackson and Eli Wallach. Lee Remick is jump in the air in BBC 2, 10.10, but Silvio Narizzano's film version misses the ultimate ferocity of Joe Orton's play comedy. Monday brings Brinks: The Great Robbery (BBC 1, 9.25) one

of those meticulous made-for-television reconstructions of a real-life crime: a 1950 Boston hold-up which took the FBI pain-lacked years to solve and became, apparently, well-known to American audiences. The "Music Hall Greats" series lowers its sights to Norman Wisdom in a shrill 1955 vehicle The Square Peg (Thursday, BBC 2, 11.20). TV/Parade, a film made in the army, finally there is Judy Garland's last film screen appearance, in a lachrymose British melodrama The Story of the German who was still incomprehensible, which includes Dirk Bogarde.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (S) STEREO; (B) BLACK AND WHITE; (V) REPEAT.

by David Robinson

by David Robinson

RADIO

Radio 4

6.25 am Shipping forecast, 6.30 News, 6.32 Farming Today, 6.50 Yours Faithfully, 6.55 Weather, 7.00 News, 7.10 On Your Farm, 7.40 Today's Papers, 7.45 Yours Faithfully, 7.50 It's a Bargain, 7.55 Weather, 8.00 News, 8.10 Sport on 4, 8.45 Today's Papers, 8.50 Yesterday in Parliament, 9.00 News, 9.05 Breakaway, 9.50 News Stand, 10.05 The Week in Westminster, 10.20 Daily Service, 10.45 Pick of the Week, 11.25 From Our Own Correspondent, 12.00 News, 12.02 pm Money Box, 12.25 Just a Minute, 12.55 Weather, 1.00 News, 1.10 Any Questions?, 2.00 News, 2.05 Wildlife, 2.30 Watlington Heights, 3.25 Medicine Now, 3.55 When Man and Mountain, 4.40 Profile, 5.00 A Home of Their Own, 5.45 Week Ending, 6.55 Weather, 7.10 Opera: The Marriage of Figaro, by Mozart, (From the Kennedy Center, Washington DC), 7.15 and 7.45 with BBC 2, 8.55 Interval reading, 9.05 The Marriage of Figaro, Act II and III, 11.15 and 11.45 with BBC 2, 10.30 Records: Brahms, 10.55 In a Nutshell (S), 11.00 News, 11.05-11.15 Record: Beethoven, 12.00 News.

Radio 3

7.55 am Weather, 8.00 News, 8.05 Records: Mahaud, Sam, Sacks, Hahn, Poulenc, 9.00 News, 9.05 Record Review, 10.15 Stereo Release: Schumann, Debussy, 11.15 Bandstand, 11.45 Diversions: records, 1.00 pm News, 1.05 Early Music Forum, 1.25 Play it Again: outstanding music of the past week, 2.00 Jazz record, 2.45 Critics' forum, 6.55 Piano: Gritter, Copland, 7.10 Opera: The Marriage of Figaro, by Mozart, (From the Kennedy Center, Washington DC), 7.15 and 7.45 with BBC 2, 8.55 Interval reading, 9.05 The Marriage of Figaro, Act II and III, 11.15 and 11.45 with BBC 2, 10.30 Records: Brahms, 10.55 In a Nutshell (S), 11.00 News, 11.05-11.15 Record: Beethoven, 12.00 News.

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2, 7.00 Play: Grand, 8.00 Tom, 10.00 Steve Wright, 1.00 pm Adrian Jurek, 2.00 A King in New York, 2.05 Paul Gambaccini, 3.00 100 Best Songs, 3.05 Peter Marshall, 4.00 am-6.00 You and the Night and the Music, 7.00 News.

Radio 5

5.00 am As Radio 2, 7.00 Play: Grand, 8.00 Tom, 10.00 Steve Wright, 1.00 pm Adrian Jurek, 2.00 A King in New York, 2.05 Paul Gambaccini, 3.00 100 Best Songs, 3.05 Peter Marshall, 4.00 am-6.00 You and the Night and the Music, 7.00 News.

Radio 1 AND 2

With Radio 2, 1.00 pm With Radio 1, 7.30-6.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (1530-1600 kHz) at the following times (GMT): 6.00 am News, 7.00 World News, 7.30 am News, 8.00 am News, 8.30 am News, 9.00 am News, 9.30 am News, 10.00 am News, 10.30 am News, 11.00 am News, 11.30 am News, 12.00 am News, 12.30 am News, 1.00 am News, 1.30 am News, 2.00 am News, 2.30 am News, 3.00 am News, 3.30 am News, 4.00 am News, 4.30 am News, 5.00 am News, 5.30 am News, 6.00 am News, 6.30 am News, 7.00 am News, 7.30 am News, 8.00 am News, 8.30 am News, 9.00 am News, 9.30 am News, 10.00 am News, 10.30 am News, 11.00 am News, 11.30 am News, 12.00 am News, 12.30 am News, 1.00 am News, 1.30 am News, 2.00 am News, 2.30 am News, 3.00 am News, 3.30 am News, 4.00 am News, 4.30 am News, 5.00 am News, 5.30 am News, 6.00 am News, 6.30 am News, 7.00 am News, 7.30 am News, 8.00 am News, 8.30 am News, 9.00 am News, 9.30 am News, 10.00 am News, 10.30 am News, 11.00 am News, 11.30 am News, 12.00 am News, 12.30 am News, 1.00 am News, 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Tea pickers in the highlands of Sri Lanka.

Travel

Rider Haggard would have loved it

The beach resorts of Sri Lanka are to be found, in the main, just south of Colombo, with tourist hotels starting at Kollupitiya and running down through Mount Lavinia to Kalutara. The farther south you go from Colombo the newer, it seems, the hotels become, until you reach Beruwala and Bentota, the latter lying just across the provincial border and in southern rather than western jurisdiction.

The hotels are there to encourage visitors to spend some of their time at rest, enjoying the simple pleasures of sun and sea, and those British holidaymakers I met on a recent visit were certainly glad of that rest. They were either gathering their strength for what they feared might prove to be hectic tours of the island, or recovering from just such a tour, although in all honesty neither the pace of travel nor the state of the roads need worry anyone.

I came to the Beach Hotel at Bentota after my own tour and tried to gather my scattered impressions of Sri Lanka—the resplendent land. The first point to make is that the island must be explored if a holiday is to mean anything. Otherwise the long journey to get there is pointless.

You should not reckon on spending too much time in Colombo. It is not a pleasant capital and the real attraction of Sri Lanka lies outside it. My own impression is of hundreds and hundreds of old British cars being driven fast by maniacs. Colombo's taxis are old Morrises, painted black and yellow and maintained more by faith than anything else. Because of past import restrictions the owners of motor vehicles have tended their cars with care, coaxing years out of them, with the result that in many ways the island seems to have been frozen in the 50s.

In Colombo and throughout the island one encounters vehicles that a British enthusiast would rave over. The difference is that whereas such vehicles are polished and possessed in Britain, being taken on the road only on special occasions, they are in everyday battered use on Sri Lanka. Still, the old Austins and Vauxhalls and Triumphs (remember the Mayflower?) are a sight to be seen.

But I must not go on about such twentieth century intrusions, for the appeal of Sri Lanka lies in the past and the wonderful cultural mix that the centuries have bequeathed. We discovered this at Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya, in the island's interior, far to the north-east of Colombo.

Polonnaruwa was the island's medieval capital and one king, Parakrama Bahu who reigned from 1153 to 1186, created what was by all accounts a magnificent city, with parks and palaces, temples and shrines. The irrigation complex for the city and the surrounding plain was so vast in its scale that it was known as the Sea of Parakrama. The tragedy of Polonnaruwa was that one of his successors, King Nissanka Malla virtually bankrupted Sri Lanka in trying to maintain the capital's prestige.

To hear the story as one visits the ruins is to gain a small insight into the passing civilisations of man. Although the city has succumbed to time and the jungle the great statues of Lord Buddha remain in the Gal Vihara and these are among the sights to be seen at Polonnaruwa.

A little nearer to Colombo, though by only a few miles, is the fortress rock of Sigiriya. It is a stupendous sight, just for itself, but its place in the island's history is another reason for visiting it. Standing on a ledge just below its summit, one of my companions spoke of the Fortress Rock and the god-king Kasyapa as something right out of Rider Haggard or Conan Doyle. It is, certainly, a fantastic world.

Having murdered his father, Kasyapa fled to the rock in the fifth century and built palaces upon its summit. At the brief height of its glory it was inhabited for no more than 18 years—it was the finest of cities. Sloping paths and steps carry you towards that summit and you must make your way along the catwalks to reach the famous rock paintings that have been there for 1500 years. The women they depict were either courtesans or courtesans or "asparas" the legendary inhabitants of the skies. I do not know and neither, it seems, do the experts for whom Sigiriya is still something of a mystery. There is no mystery at Kandy, which was the next city to be visited on our tour. A little over 70 miles from Colombo it was the last stronghold of the Kandyan kings and ceded to Britain by a treaty of 1815, which doubtless tidied up the map of Empire. The main reason for going there is the celebrated Temple of the Tooth, but the town and its surroundings are attractive in their own right with a large lake and botanical gardens in the former, and the nearby villages of Narsanpota and Henawala are worth visiting.

The other advantage of a tour of Sri Lanka is that it enables one to see remarkably fine landscapes and a wide range of agricultural activities from the rice growing of the more open country, side to the rubber industry with its working elephants in the sawmills and the growing and harvesting of tea in the high hill country. Nuwara Eliya was where we encountered the latter, joining the giggling and chattering girls on the slopes as they plucked the fresh shoots and stopping for refreshment at the Hill Club, created by the British for the old-style planters.

A good tour will give you time to see and savour Sri Lanka. The secret is not to try to cover too much ground. My own visit did not take me to Annapurana, another ancient city, or to Trincomalee and the east coast. But it is far better to enjoy what you are able to see, and promise

John Carter

Collecting
A small obsession

Twenty years ago in Cornwall I met a petrol salesman, moonlighting on cars, for private dinner parties. When I met my first collector. The drawing room in which we were standing was banked with paintings from floor to ceiling. Rather like the pictures of the old Royal Exhibition, Sickert, Wilson Steer, McEwen, Gilman, I early Augustus John and almost everyone else you can think of, abounded.

It was the beginning for me of the mild interest which gradually turned into a small obsession. Later that same evening after the dinner, I was given my first picture, a Baroque of Louis Fuller doing a fandance in Paris. Those were the great days when carriage clocks for 50 or so and Art Deco for a pittance cluttered the antique shops. It was easy to buy in Cornwall and sell in London, paying for the weekend in town with the difference.

I was found out finally, and got the heave, came to London and drifted into the restaurant business. Next door to Odins in Devonshire Street is the gallery, run by my friend, Nicholas Vilag, and there I first met Brian Sewell. An acknowledged expert in Old Master drawings, he has a natural eye for pictures of all periods and he encouraged me in my interest in late nineteenth century and early twentieth century painting and drawing. It was along those lines that I collected over the next few years.

Rich buyers with little taste often purchase big names

artists' unattractive, minor, poor works which for the most part are all that reach the market these days, particularly amongst the impressionists and post-impressionists. The collector of good pictures by less well-known artists always judges the work on its own merits first, rather than looking at the signature. After all, you should be buying a picture, not a name. I find more pleasure in having a plethora of good pictures, than a single, lonely, great one.

The search for value for money is understandable, but the present practice of buying for investment potential, advertised in the nature of most dealers, is hostile to the true spirit of collecting, and a Philistine approach. Works of art which some years ago used to feature in auctioneers' catalogues, are now illustrated in the green catalogue with the word "important" on its front. The standard available today is much lower than it was.

My favourite West End gallery is in Bond Street, the Fine Art Society, run by Andrew Patrick. The British art seen there is often so much better than what is shown next door in Wildenstein's, who mostly sell French painting. French painting has been in the international commodity market for many years, whereas the British schools are bought largely by the British themselves and have few foreign devotees.

I got involved with contemporary painters because my partner in business lived in the first floor flat of Patrick Proctor, and I asked him to do a portrait of her children. This was the beginning of my introduction to him and to the work of many of his friends. In the early Sixties, the art clique was particularly intimate. R. E. Kitaj and Hockney in a blaze of gold, had just emerged from the Royal College of Art. Proctor from the Slade, all more or less at the same time, to join Bacon and Freud, Auerbach and Hamilton, Richard Smith, Howard Hodgkin, Peter Blake, Anthony Caro Et al. Kasmin, now Kasmin Knoedler, was the dealer of many of them and is one of the few of that ilk that is not motivated entirely by money.

There was much to-ing and fro-ing across the Atlantic by these painters and such Americans as Frank Stella, Olitski and Jim Dine. Somehow, Odins seemed to balloon into being the artists' restaurant with Hockney, Proctor, Kitaj and Caro, becoming close friends of mine. Those days had a freedom of the excitement, creativity, but it slowly subsided as the Sixties turned into the Seventies. It seems to me that the artists who have come along since then are rather pale by comparison, though the Elastics look more promising. It's unfortunate that they have all become expensive but then, the pound is worth little now.

Etchings, lithographs and sculptures should normally be bought at auction because (we "hold" the dealers' prices, but posters for artists' shows are often available at the gallery during viewings, and the quality of the printing is very high. A superb Kitaj poster could be bought for less than £10 at his recent exhibition.

Of the good artists who are still not expensive, I like Guy Gladwell's "still lives" (Treadwell Gallery) and Rori Cook's charming work (Portia Gallery).

It's a pity that the work of many modern painters suffers from a spicing to mountains rather than taking in the pleasure of the rolling hills. Abstract art seems to me to vary from the appalling to good "mood" interior decoration, though Stephen Buckley often gets near that extra dimension, and Howard Hodgkin's work can't be restricted to either the figurative or abstract categories, but holds a special place of its own.

From time to time in the past, I've been accused of playing the vandal with some of my friends' works. I painted out the beginnings of a Dieter Roth, removed the tads de joue round a Richard Hamilton you, again, took his picture back, and having commissioned Patrick Proctor to do the Venice murals in the upstairs room at The Brasserie—they were superb, but too vivid for my purpose—I aged them a few hundred years with six coats of tinted varnish. Patrick exploded, saying "Darling, Giotto's work was bright when he painted it." "Unfortunately", I told him, "we only have a 20-year lease". For the record, there is one 25 foot mural behind three coats of paint in that room. We are still close friends.

I used to collect wine and art deco and can only advise the would-be collector to be wary, if he is of a gregarious Jack the Lad nature, that when sozzled generosity runs high. Gone is my entire collection of first growths and vintage port, many pictures and all the bits of porcelain, drunk or given away in inebriate moments.

In the past, works of art and paintings were commissioned and enjoyed by a privileged few. It's sad that in spite of mass education and communication, painting, unlike other art forms such as literature and the cinema, hasn't extended its attractions to a wider public.

Peter Langan

The author is a restaurateur and collector.



Peter Langan by David Hockney.

HOSTAL DE LA GAVINA
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Drink
Royal refreshment

For immediate drinking, it is worth noting several novelties that can be useful for casual refreshment as well as with food, together with some wines that, perhaps because they have been widely available for some time, are overlooked but offer considerable enjoyment at modest cost.

From Yugoslavia there is a lightly flowery dry white wine from a single vineyard in the Luvomer-Ormoz-Gorice region, considered the finest wine area. This is the 1979 Slaninak, made entirely from the Laski Riesling; it obtained high marks in tasting and laboratory tests and it is very agreeable aperitif or with simple food. (£1.97 from The Wine Shop, Camden Rd., Tunbridge Wells, Kent). Another fullish, freshly fragrant white wine is Hungarian Debrii Harsleveli, the bouquet evocative of orange flowers; the Harsleveli grape is a specialty of Hungary, getting its name—which means "lime flowers"—from the somewhat unusual leaf of this particular vine. (The 1978 costs £2.50 and is widely distributed, but can be bought, among other outlets, from The Yorkshire Wine Centre, 25 Leedes Old Rd., Bradford, and Wines of Westhorpe, 54 Boyon Hill Rd., Maidenhead, Berks.) Both these white wines are so useful that they should be ordered by the case.

A really new one is Le Chouan, 1979, a vin de pays from the Loire Atlantique region. Instead of the Muscadet or Gros plant being the vines, the aristocratic Chardonnay has been used, giving the white wine some grace and elegance, with the subtle but definite length and crispness of this great grape. The name

comes from the Royalists who resisted the republicans in the west of France in 1795 (Le Chouan means "the Cabbage"). It is a 1979 Bouteille de la Couronne St. ECI, or the branches of Wine & Beer Shops, also Europa Foods branches.) Do not serve any of these white wines too cold, as this prevents the emergence of the charming bouquet they possess.

A more robust white wine comes from a respected maker of Brunello in the Montalcino district; this is the 1979 Bianco Val d'Arbia, of Silvio Nardi, slightly herby as regards bouquet, with an open textured style and touch of fat—a very good partner to full-bodied Lenten fish recipes. (£2.76 from Ashlyns, Maxted Rd., Hemel Hempstead, Herts, a firm new to these columns, with a most interesting short list). From the same merchant there are two charming pink wines: the 1979 Rosé Piper, a vin de pays du Cher (£2.90) and the 1978 Touraine Azay-le-Rideau (£2.98). The Piper is pleasant, full and moderately full in style, the Azay is a chamer, a shimmering pinky-gold of old Sheffield character that makes one realize why some of these Loire wines were described as "tiffers" by writers of former times. It is a little closed-up compared with the Piper, but full enough to go with the pork dishes of the region and rather special cold cuts. Many pink Loire wines today are rather dull, slightly sweet, and the later, real finesse and the later, made from the Cabernet Franc, is outstanding.

The oddly named Passetout-grains red Burgundy is so called because, in former times, the peasant farmer would not separate his grapes at the vintage, but put all—the Pinot and Pinot Noir—into the vat at once, making the blend. Passetoutgrains must have at least one-third Pinot

Pamela Vandyke Price

Clive Barnes/New York Notebook
Wielding the Reagan axe



The United States and Britain have traditionally had in common a distrust of public subsidy for the arts. There has always been a strong puritan ethic in both countries suggesting that those who want the arts should pay for them, although few would apply such principles to say, health or education.

Our niggardly attitude towards public subsidy stems from the puritanical feeling that the arts if not actually evil are certainly unnecessary.

In America, if anything, these puritanical concepts were even more rigid. That the performing arts survived at all was due to private patrons.

But over the years, the rich were largely phased out by taxation, and a more democratic basis was seen as desirable for the arts.

The American institutions had found a champion in the various foundation funds, and later big business, and mass fund-raising all helped to take up the slack between expenditure and box-office returns.

In 1966 the federal government initiated the national endowment for the arts and the national endowment for the humanities—each receiving \$125,000. It was a start that prospered, at least modestly.

In the fiscal year 1982, had the budget submitted by the Carter administration been approved, the arts endowment would have received \$175m, and the humanities endowment (concerned chiefly with academic and educational projects) would have received \$169m.

Then came President Reagan's axe. In his budget cuts he proposed reducing the arts and humanities to about half of what they were previously receiving. Thus, should the Reagan budget be approved, the arts would get \$88m and the humanities \$85m.

This must result in a massive cut in arts expenditure. The federal subsidy is only a part of the total subsidy—most states have their own arts

Jersey brings out the smiles.



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As the Dorchester's famous chef des cuisine Anton Mosimann found Jersey's food, and much else besides, very much to his liking.

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William Rees-Mogg says farewell after 14 years as Editor of *The Times*

My resumption of liberty

This is the last issue of *The Times* I shall edit; apart from an occasional book review or obituary appreciation this is the last article I expect to write for the newspaper. I am proud to have been the sole editor of two proprietors and particularly proud to have been Roy Thomson's, who gave me the job. I am very happy to be handing over the editorship to Harold Evans, a colleague with whom I have worked closely and happily since the mid-1950s. It is a fascinating job, complicated nowadays by the industrial and commercial problems of Fleet Street. Those, at any rate, I leave without regret; I am very interested in business, but Fleet Street, while wonderful for journalists, is a dreadful place to do business in. I never think of the newspaper industry, as it is grandly called, without recollecting Alexander Pope's reference:

"To where Fleet Ditch, with
disemboging streams,
Rolls the large tribute of dead
dogs to Thames."

I had considered writing a farewell leading article; it is easy to see how it could be done with a trumpet salute at the beginning, an elevating sermon in the middle and the Old Austrian National Anthem (arranged by F. von Hayek) at the end, providing a very suitable memorial service for the 14 years of my editorship. I think many of my readers would have enjoyed it, and nobody, not even the parodists of *Private Eye*, could have put together such a Westminster Abbey leader with a more limp grandeur than myself.

I have chosen not to do so because giving up the Editorship of *The Times* is in personal terms a resumption of liberty; if not a second birth—and who am I to be reborn?—it is a second adolescence, full of freedom, imperiousness and hope. For 14 years I have had to think as though I were an institution, not

expressing, except sometimes when they broke out purely personal views, but trying to work out a continuous and sound policy for *The Times*. Opinion was not my choice but my profession, and my readers were entitled to my best professional endeavours.

I must admit to having been chafed by the restraints of impartiality. I could play no part in politics, except as a sort of referee. I even felt that I had to resign from any political clubs. Now, the shadow of the prison house close round Mr Harold Evans (and even cast a somewhat fainter shadow over Mr Rupert Murdoch) I feel like the prisoners at the end of Fido, bursting out of their jail house with a song of joy on their lips.

It would therefore be incongruous for me to incense anything that I have to say in the formal status of an anonymous leading article. This is not the end of a long process of solemnity, balance and good order, but a restoration of the right to express my own views, which my friends know to be impetuous and romantic, sometimes to the point of absurdity in my own way. I have been too sensible for too long, and now I need not be sensible again, at least for the time being.

Mr Michael Foot because, by some quirk of psychology, I feel free of the necessity to be fair to him. It is because I see him as a fellow pamphleteer that it seems natural, whenever he comes under review, for me to creep up behind him and bang him on the head with whatever clown's balloon comes to hand. Apart from that, I feel a compulsion to be fair to almost everybody. I feel more than fair to the Social Democrats. I am sure that Britain needs to have an electoral system which is less of a gamble. I see the problem partly from an economic point of view. Given the tendency for our present electoral system to put minority governments in complete power, there is a probability that it would—unless changed—eventually elect a government of the hard left. So long as there is the risk why should international industry invest?

So I would like to see a Social Democratic and Liberal alliance succeed in introducing electoral reform, and believe that the resulting balance between parties of the moderate left and a party of the moderate right would be a healthier political pattern. Yet I am not a Social Democrat. These idealistic ideas are too egalitarian for me, and I suspect for human nature. I wish them well, but with the expectation that I shall disagree

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with them when they have done well. I find myself sympathetic to Mrs Thatcher, and irritated by the view—which I am afraid is only too widespread—that there are obvious alternative policies which the Government are merely obstinate in refusing to pursue. In the end, both the CBI and the TUC advice seems to come down to an advocacy of more inflation, though it is in fact a speech has done more than anything else to destroy jobs.

On the other hand, I feel that Mrs Thatcher has made three important mistakes. Monetary policy can only work if government expenditure is well controlled; the balanced budget is essential; in the first year of this administration, the cuts in expenditure were not big enough, and public sector pay was let run away. Her second mistake is in image building. She has emphasized her inflexibility: "The lady's not for turning" sounds like a good phrase, but has been damaging to the wise and the sensible, willing to consider any helpful policy, but not willing to do what he thinks to be wrong.

The consequence of dramatizing her inflexibility has been to make the Prime Minister appear personally responsible for a world slump. The British workers who are unemployed would in fact have been equally likely to become unemployed if they had been Belgians with a different economic policy and a very different government. The truth is that nobody knows the best way to manage the worst world slump since the 1930s (for economic historians it is a case-book example of a Kondratieff 50-year recession) in a period of endemic inflation. There is no answer in Keynes or Friedman or Marx or anyone else, though increasing the inflation is almost certainly wrong.

Mrs Thatcher's courage leads her to raise the level of her personal responsibility to everyone. It is very modestly phrased call for expansion, it seems clear that he will have little time for those calling for new industrial strategies. He is in no mood for backing winners, nor for large public investment programmes. The money is just not there in the Treasury's view.

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worse. She has managed to reduce the expectation of inflation.

The third mistake is her continued resistance to electoral reform. A principle of conservatism is stability—the basis for confidence and growth. Our electoral system is now much less stable than the views of the electorate; their comparatively stable views are converted artificially into a steeper alternation of right and left.

The two ideas on which I have edited this newspaper have been stability and openness. I believe that the life of the individual grows best in a stable society. In economic terms that means attempting to reconcile stability of prices with stability of employment, something which is only possible—in my view—with stable exchange rates. In political terms it means continuity of policy.

We have seen the benefits of that since 1960 in Germany, France and Japan, and we have seen the cost of unstable policies in Britain and the United States. This search for stability will be more important in the future as the revolutionary changes in science and technology will continue to change human society to the limit of man's capacity for adjustment.

The other principle is that of openness. *The Times* is clearly not the newspaper of a party, but is not even the newspaper of a single opinion. The uniqueness of *The Times* is that it feels an obligation to all opinions, to all perceptions of truth. We have tried to understand creeds as remote as the National Front, or the Islamic fundamentalism of the Ayatollah Khomeini, without parodying them or without judgment.

We were extraordinarily enough, the first British newspaper to accept the legitimacy of Reagan Republicanism. Yet to be open to all views does not mean to be indifferent to all actions. To the destroyers of the open society, and in my 14 years most particularly to the Russian destroyers of the Czech movement to liberty, *The Times* has been and is most absolutely opposed.



Ernest Bevin and Clement Attlee in 1945.

Bevin, born with an instinct to rule

Ernest Bevin was an indubitably great man. Clement Attlee, upon an unenthusiastic of men, called him the greatest trade unionist of his time and one of the outstanding Englishmen of that generation, well worthy to stand historically alongside Churchill.

Most of what was constructive in the Labour movement in his time we owe to Bevin. From him it had its leadership. He was above all a builder. Attlee confesses himself proud to have known him—so am I: Bevin was a wonderful man.

And not only when one considers the handicaps with which he started life. He was not a bit sentimental about that, never complained of his hard luck, and had no inferiority complex. He had none of the minority-minority mind which is the bane of the Labour movement.

He was majority-minded, with the born instinct to rule and organize and govern; though he had the ruthlessness necessary to leadership, he always identified himself with the people he belonged to. He was a realist, he always said. He had great humanity and compassion; as Attlee says, Bevin had some difficulty, as Foreign Secretary, in meeting a type like Molotov who, he knew, had been "guilty of great cruelty to many innocent beings".

This was a side of Bevin which the world did not see much of, but it was there all the time. He was immensely, we might say, from the familiar round figure he made—enormously human. And he was quite as skilled at negotiation as Molotov—"Stone Bottom"—and could out-act him.

The communist Molotov was middle-class, his real name Scelba, was a cousin of the composer. Bevin was the son of an agricultural labourer, dead before he was born—a hundred years ago today—and a mother who worked herself out with work and died when the boy was seven. Born at Worsfold in Somerset, Ernest always remained—and retained—the earthiness of a countryman. Leaving school at 11, he was for 11 years a drayman, driving horse and wagon around Bristol. One of his first humanitarian deeds was to stop a group of opposition—the overworking of horses.

He never minded about opposition, which he encouraged all his life. I think he got his strong, straight principles from the Nonconformist training of his remarkable mother; in youth he was for a time a local preacher. Then came the conversion to socialist principles: he was a late developer.

He found his true bent in organizing the casual labour at the docks in Bristol, then he was transferred to London where he could operate on a national scale. He had an instinct for organization—and he used the weapon of strikes effectively, always with a good end in view, never merely destructively. He gradually built up the Transport and General Workers' Union into the biggest of the lot. It was significant that when he was Transport House, the Labour Party's headquarters took shelter under his roof.

I remember him telling me that he was concerned about the high rate of duodenal ulcer among his London bus-drivers, and that he got his union to vote £10,000 for Minor Road hospital to research into the causes of it. Just like him—always constructive.

After the disaster to the Labour Party in 1931 he set himself to pick up the pieces. Though he disturbed intellectuals, he was willing to give us young men a lead in backing *The New Clarion* (for which I used to write). He backed G. D. H. Cole's new Society for Socialist Inquiry and Propaganda until the instrument broke in his hands, confirming his distrust for mere intellectuals.

The Labour movement suffered from having no voice in the press. It was Bevin again who remedied that. He managed to acquire the dominating interest in the *Daily Herald* for the movement—"my paper"—and when he became a world figure and a real international statesman that was the paper he turned to first.

He was, remarkably, one of the first to see the folly of our return to the gold standard, and again the folly of pursuing disarmament in the Thirties, when Hitler was working Germany all hours for the Second World War. Just as Bevin was right against the orthodox economists, so he was right about appeasement against the politicians, and saw the necessity of re-arming before Attlee and Morrison did.

I used to notice at Labour Party conferences that Attlee stopped dozing to listen when Bevin spoke. And though I was on the left, I never heard Bevin speak but I was intellectually convinced by what he said—the sheer unanswerable rightness of it.

This was the clue to the famous scene of his dismissal of George Lansbury's pacifism and from the leadership of the Labour Party at the Brighton conference in 1935. What was the point of pacifism against an armed Nazi Germany?

I did not think Bevin's attitude "brutal"—he was deeply moved by Hitler's destruction of our people, the trade unions and social democrats. Bevin was a realist; the realities of the situation were harsh and had to be confronted squarely.

When the war came, Bevin's contribution as Minister of Labour was prodigious, second only to Churchill's in winning the war. Bevin organized the whole of British manpower, and womanpower, for national service with maximum efficiency and the minimum of disturbance.

No wonder when Churchill was stunned by the Labour victory of 1945, he consoled himself with: "Bevin is Foreign Secretary, and he is as firm as a rock." So he was. When the communists were near to taking over Greece, it was Bevin who forced the United States to see the danger, take a hand and stop the rot.

Altogether, Bevin was a wonderful fellow, second only to Churchill in our time. I find his last words, a few days before he died, very touching: "You know, I've been thinking. Perhaps I haven't done too badly for the *Herald*. Or the trade union. Or perhaps even the nation."

Dr A. L. Rowse

Caroline Moorehead

The Continuing Challenge. Judith Stone. The International Year of the Child Trust. 8 Wakley Street, London, E.C1.

The Budget: what only the magic circle knows

A word of caution about the Budget on Tuesday. If all the recent talks by Cabinet ministers about "adjustments" to "taxes and tithings" and "Tory pragmatism" have fostered some wishful thinking that a U-turn is coming we are advised to forget it. In a word the U-turn, like its opposite, the longed-for landfall of economic recovery, has not yet been sighted.

Instead, Sir Geoffrey Howe is mobilizing all his talents presently in pursuit with him to persuade us to believe in a holding operation. It will be to hold on financially and politically, until it becomes clear later this year whether the "bottoming out" of the recession has ended and the economy is on the upward path again.

But, at least, is my interpretation of the solemn mood seemingly prevailing those around Mrs Thatcher, the Chancellor, and the small group of ministers who are in on the Budget. The question is: does it mean further deflation on top of what is already set by the Chancellor in last November's measures or is there to be some

ease, by allowing the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in the coming years to slip the way this year's was forced to?

While some details have been so well advertised as to seem fairly certain, the overall impact of the Budget eludes the other Cabinet ministers like everyone else. Among Cabinet dissidents views vary from "the Budget will be bad, although not that bad", or "it can't surely be deflationary again".

The fact is that no one outside the tiny magic circle has been told. The effort to persuade Mr Thatcher to discuss a full Cabinet session to discuss economic strategy before the Budget was finally settled was treated by her as something like a Spanish Putsch.

The last time the full Cabinet discussed macro-economic policy was last October during the exhausting sessions devoted to cutting public expenditure. That exercise ended in partial defeat for Mrs Thatcher and her Chancellor. It probably did nothing to persuade them of the advantages of conducting such consultations regularly. So

the only advance warning the full Cabinet will get of the Budget will be a few hours ahead of the rest of us on Tuesday morning.

Its worst effects from the standpoint of populist policies will be increases in personal income tax payments and increases in duties on drinks, tobacco and petrol. It is easy to see how simple upgradings, perhaps less than full inflation, can be justified in logical terms.

But the Chancellor's political task will not thereby be eased. What matters more will be the size of the package with which he can lessen the burden of industry—how much minimum lending rate comes down, whether the employers' national insurance surcharge is cut and what he can do to lessen energy costs for industry.

But it may be objected—did you not report that income tax rates would not be going up; that the "incentive" tax cuts of 1979 must be protected come what may? Indeed, indeed. The actual tax rates are almost certain to remain unchanged; it is that Rooker-Wise-Lawson amendment thing which updates

personal allowances in line with inflation that is now a candidate for de-indexing.

And it could be painful. It will cause all taxpayers to suffer greater PAYE deductions while leaving the rates intact. The Government will save itself £1,600m if it puts up personal allowances by only 5 per cent instead of the 15.1 per cent inflation rate.

The justification will have to be that all other benefits, including child benefit are being updated by less than the full inflation rate taxpayers must also contribute. Remember, last autumn the Government planned doing the same to age pensions, before it backed down.

Now Conservative supporters will be able to stomach much of this, if they can touch a spark of inspiration from Sir Geoffrey that the policy will work in the end—in the end for the elections. It is his most daunting problem. For while he may believe it, the men of little faith have been grabbing the headlines and the iconoclasts smashing his temples.

There is, at the moment no economic prediction that he can make that would buttress his credibility. In the words of one insider, this is the hour of blackest despair, when people turn again to all manner of superstitions which—like the Chancellor's view—ruined us in the past.

Although the Chancellor has not had time yet to digest the recovery plan by the Confederation of British Industry and its very modestly phrased call for expansion, it seems clear that he will have little time for those calling for new industrial strategies. He is in no mood for backing winners, nor for large public investment programmes. The money is just not there in the Treasury's view.

And yet, how modest would be the impact of the CBI's discussion document *The Will To Win*. Even assuming the expansionary stimulus it proposes, by 1984 the gross domestic product would be only one per cent above what it had been in 1979; unemployment would nearly be back after an interesting rise to what it is currently. That is the measure of the crisis.

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Letter from New Orleans

Mardi Gras and all that...

When the curtain went up on the centenary Proteus ball here, all the queens of all the past balls who could be brought together were there in line, long dresses, jewels and white gloves, nearly 50 of them. Then the curtain behind them went up, and there were their escorts—husbands, fathers, kings of past balls—in white ties and medals.

This was New Orleans high society performing, entirely for itself, the central ritual of its seasons. Mardi Gras was the next day, and a club banded 100 years ago organized a parade and a ball every year, events that are the clubs' only purpose. High society is defined by memberships in the clubs (the oldest and most exclusive is called Comus); the Comus and Proteus balls and the Mardi Gras carnival has now achieved such a central part in the city's life that it is possible to claim that the Mardi Gras defines New Orleans.

Tourism is the city's second industry after the port (and catching up fast) but Proteus and the others are not for tourists. The queens of the ball masquerading as the sea god himself and make their debuts (as English girls do or did at other balls on other occasions. But the Mardi Gras ball is the epitome and one measure of its success in nailing society together was the appearance, for the Proteus centenary, of such a large number of former queens.

No other city in America could have done it. The queens would have been scattered to the winds years ago. This Mardi Gras was paraded around, applauded by the audience and followed in order by all her predecessors. Then came the tableau with the men dressed in Proteus finery (the king of the ball masquerading as the sea god himself) and then the dance began.

The main parade which lasts all afternoon, is called Rex. It is preceded by a black parade called Zulu and followed by the most elegant of all, Comus. Everyone dresses up. Everyone gets very tired and emotional, and everyone has a lovely time.

Patrick Brogan

Sportsview

Cricket, vulnerable cricket

Although the England cricket tour of the West Indies is continuing, it may not be long before another of the world's great sporting fixtures founders on the issue of South Africa. If it is not the Commonwealth Games, in Brisbane next year, it will be the Test series between West Indies and New Zealand due to be played in the Caribbean early in 1982 or England's visit to India later this year.

Had England chosen their strongest side to tour the West Indies this winter it would have had to contain Mike Procter, Gloucestershire's South African cricketer, who, technically, is now as eligible to play for England as any other cricketer.

England is a South African and proud of it, but his 10 years in that time having played Test cricket for another country, qualified him for selection for England.

Next year Alan Lamb, another South African, will also be eligible to play for England, and at 26 Lamb, unlike Procter, will be about for a long time yet. When I say that Ken Barrington, who is 50, is in the net to be the third best English batsman currently in the West Indies—Barrington is the side's assistant manager—it becomes obvious how useful an acquisition Lamb would be. Yet if Procter had been chosen in Ian Botham's side the England tour

of West Indies would have ended before it had started—and when Lamb, having won his first England cap, is chosen to tour India or Pakistan or West Indies, what will happen then?

These are two examples among hundreds of the controversies that lie ahead. They could have related, equally well, to any other sport.

Although the decision taken by the governments of Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica and Montserrat to allow the England tour to continue brought a predictable mixed reaction, there was general agreement that if international sport is not to become hopelessly dislocated the Glenageary Agreement must be clarified at the next Commonwealth Conference at Melbourne in September.



Alan Lamb: qualified.

It would be a sad day if any English sporting governing body were ever even to hint to an Englishman that he would put his international place in jeopardy if he were to play in South Africa or if England were obliged to select one cricket side against West Indies and another against Australia. Preferably that would be to play only against countries who interpret in a like manner the Glenageary Agreement, even if this should mean cutting oneself off from old and traditional opponents.

Speaking for myself I would rather we played South Africa again, where more genuine sportsmen have been made in cricket than in most other games to mix the races, than lay ourselves open to a repetition of what has just happened in Guyana.

It would be difficult not to have some sympathy for Guyana's views—which are the same as those of many other countries—if not for the way they were prepared to admit to the originality of their selection who had links with South Africa, but not Robin Jackman once Jamaica had rejected their hand. Nor is it surprising that Mr. Paul Stephenson, the one non-white member of the British Sports Council, should have said that there would be nothing less than a "disarmament" among African countries at the time of the West Indian Government to

come out in favour of the England tour.

What it must lead to as things are going, is a split, for a while at any rate, between the cricketing countries of the world.

It is even possible, I suppose, that the cricketing federation of the West Indies will break up, with Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica and Antigua seeking a Test status of their own, or that South Africa, tired of being ostracized, will use their great wealth to launch a type of Packer operation run on multi-racial lines, which would attract, for the most lucrative rewards, a majority of the best players.

Cricket was never more vulnerable than it is at the moment, financially and politically. On the present tour alone, the West Indians are likely to suffer massive losses. Without the money they make when they visit England, Australia and India they would find it hard, independently or collectively, to survive. For all these reasons and many more, cricket and the politicians have got to sort themselves out. If it forces the Commonwealth governments to be more objective in the Glenageary Agreement, that would be a good thing. In Melbourne in September, at "Jamaica Affairs", may come to be seen, in time, to have been the catalyst that created a crisis but spared all sport from a bigger one.

John Woodcock

Hardly a vintage year for children

One could explain to me the connection between two footballs, a cataput, and a couple of sausages and the Year of the Child. It is something to do with the International Year of the Child.

The Steering Committee met with some opposition from the Government and were offered a "disarmament



TO CALM THEIR FEARS

The Prime Minister's visit to Northern Ireland was timely and needed. Its place in her exceptionally busy schedule of engagements just now speaks of a sound sense of priorities. Her presence there, her evident concern about the state of Ulster's economy, and what she had to say on the constitutional issue ought to have some calming effect on unionist opinion. While her visit is unlikely to reform the increasingly loutish behaviour of the Rev Ian Paisley, it ought to make Unionist minds a bit less receptive of the nonsense he is filling them with—that she has done a secret deal with Mr Haughey to hand over the province, that there is a pre-arranged sellout of Ulstermen whose allegiance is to the Queen. She will not, however, have disposed of more honest and more credible doubt about her policy. She is to be believed when she says that the process of study and constructive discussion on which the British and Irish governments have embarked is without prior commitment on her part to any change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland. But to what end are these studies being undertaken? "Peace, reconciliation and stability" said the communiqué issued after the meeting in Dublin Castle in December. Resonant abstractions, like an armory motto for a building society, altogether too vacuous, no substitute for a prospectus.

In Dublin they have a pretty clear idea of the end in view: Ireland united on federal principles, sovereignly distinct from Great Britain. It is the length and circuitry of the route that is uncertain, not the objective. But Mr Haughey makes the definite claim that a large first step has been taken. He claims that settlement of the Northern Ireland question has been taken out of its provincial context, where it was petrified and placed in the larger framework of "the totality of the relationships within these islands" (the

communiqué again). Or, as a Unionist would put it, matters affecting the constitutional position of Northern Ireland are being discussed over the heads of Ulstermen.

Mrs Thatcher in her speech in the old Parliament Buildings at Stormont on Thursday night gave no matchingly clear and distinct idea of where this new phase of policy is leading. She repeated the peace and reconciliation formula, adding that all shared a common interest in a society free of gunmen and in "building better working relationships within these islands and within Europe". As it happens, relationships between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are, for some time have been, and look like continuing to be, in excellent working order—but for the strains imposed by the partition of Ireland. But for that no such elaborate exercise of diplomacy would be thought of. So all this about the totality of relationships is a rearguard for the issue of partition.

And when Mrs Thatcher came to make her personal affirmation of Unionist aims, she has noticed something missing. Her personal and deep commitment was not to the Union, to the Britishness of Ulster, to the inalienable bonds of common allegiance. It was to the proposition that "Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and will remain so unless its people and the Parliament at Westminster decide otherwise. That is the law of the land..." Her commitment, in other words, is to the principle of self-determination. And that is quite compatible with a policy of creating conditions meant to steer the exercise of the right of self-determination in a particular direction. It is only natural that Ulstermen should ask themselves whether they now have a government which hopes eventually to win their consent to Irish unification, with progressive loss of sympathy if they do not oblige.

What is to be the political

response of Ulster Unionism to this supposition? The response of Mr Paisley is to belittle Betrayal, revive the covenant, hurl armed resistance, and shoulder the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and anyone else he takes a dislike to, out of his way. He is giving a lead of a sort, and with it he hopes to be confirmed as the authentic voice of unionism in the local government elections two months away, which like all elections in Northern Ireland will be fought on the constitutional issue. He is an object lesson in how to lose friends and influence people. If the Ulster Protestants fall in behind that kind of loyalist disloyalty they will find that they sensibly increase the political pressures in Britain for rapid disengagement from the impossible quarrels of the Irish.

It is Ulster's misfortune, and a consequence of Westminster's rule there in the past decade, that there is now no strong alternative leadership of the unionist community. Mr Powell is partly disabled by his Englishness. Mr Molyneux can hardly make himself heard outside the chamber of the House of Commons. The Rev Martin Smyth remains narrow in the Orange Order from which he springs. Yet the way for Unionism to see even in the absence of commanding political leadership. It is to cease to impugn the good faith of British ministers; act as well as talk; respond constructively to proposals for the administration of the province within the Union; welcome functional cooperation with the Republic at all levels; press for a scheme of administration as similar as possible to that established in other parts of the kingdom; treat nationalist Ulstermen as fellow citizens; enter more fully into the political life of the kingdom as a whole; and unhesitatingly make, not on the merest suspicion, but only if it is plain that their allegiance is about to be repudiated.

Role for Gulf deployment force

From Sir Kennedy Trevellick

Sir, The concept of a rapid deployment force is founded on the illusion that conventional forces could effectively counter the Soviet threat to the Gulf. Perhaps they could if they were Soviet practice to extend its influence by direct conquest. But it is not.

When it established itself on the approaches to the Gulf in South Yemen, Ethiopia and Afghanistan, the Soviet Union did so in the aftermath of revolutions and at the expense of their revolutionary regimes. That is what we may expect to attempt in the Gulf. Should it succeed, what would a rapid deployment force avail us? Short of our taking the unthinkable step of using it to invade the Gulf to restore the status quo ante, there is nothing that it could do.

The fact is that Soviet aggression, being unconventional, demands an unconventional response. It demands, in particular, the provision of arms and training to those fighting the revolutionary regimes under whose cover the Soviet Union has moved into one country after another. There is no reason why we, in the West, should be inhibited in the matter. The Soviet Union has openly proclaimed that it has a duty to succour popular revolutionary movements. We should now do the same by aiding those in rebellion against its puppet regimes in South Yemen, Ethiopia and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan, a neighbour of Iraq which is almost certainly the Soviet Union's next target, demands the most immediate attention. Here, however, here is a difficulty. No help could be given to the Afghans without Pakistan's collaboration and, so long as she has nothing but obsolete weaponry with which to counter Soviet retaliation, she cannot be expected to concede it. And so, if the West is to help the Afghans, it must also help Pakistan to put her defences in order. India would, certainly, object to this on the grounds that her national security would be threatened.

There is no valid reason to believe that it would be, and since India as a favourite Soviet beneficiary has been at pains to spare her long factor international embarrassment over Afghanistan, we can hardly be expected to subordinate our own interests to hers and, indirectly, to the Soviet Union's. The liberals and neo-liberals of the West would, of course, object to this, but to assist a dictatorial regime such as Pakistan's was wrong.

Certainly, it would be indefensible if we were to succour a regime as odiously inhuman as Cambodia's former Khmer Rouge. Equally, in a different sense, would be wrong if we were to provide a potential enemy with arms which might later be turned against ourselves. But such considerations no more apply to the Pakistanis than they do to the equally autocratic regime of Saudi Arabia.

Where our own vital interests so clearly demand that we should give Pakistan what she needs to defend herself, such objections to our doing so are palpably frivolous. We cannot, however, dismiss the unequivocal objections of the Gulf states to the deployment of any Western forces in them. Without their consent, not a soldier of ours can set foot in the Gulf and there is not the least prospect of their giving it. Why then invest our hopes in a plan which is unacceptable to those whom it is intended to help and which, given the nature of the Soviet threat, could not in any event be effective? The only answer to Soviet promoted and protected revolution is counter-revolution. That is the inescapable truth.

Yours faithfully,
KENNEDY TREVELLICK,
82 Canberrill Grove, SE5.
March 5.

Civil servants' demands

From Mr S. C. Pigott

Sir, You must be pleased that so many civil servants have conceded their loyalty to the Queen's Government, which Sir Max Beloff questioned (March 2).

Their letters explain how their loyalty depends, not on some airy notion of service to the realm, but on the principle of preserving agreements which have protected civil servants, in work and in retirement, from the inflation and economic decline which have afflicted the rest of the country. And this they will be striking for that principle of protection—not just for more pay than the Government now thinks enough.

All this should greatly reassure your readers. One is always happier when public servants strike for a principle. It may cost as much as a strike for pay; but the disruption seems easier to bear.

Yours faithfully,
S. C. PIGOTT,
23 Vincent Square, SW1.
March 5.

From Mr J. T. Race
Sir, Could some civil servant, who considers that he is underpaid in comparison with an employee of equal attainments in the cold outside world of commerce or industry, please explain why he does not leave the Service and take a better job? Yours faithfully,
J. T. RACE,
The White House,
Stonehill Close, SW14.

Lecture disruption

From Mrs Janet Jackson

Sir, Five hundred people assembled in a church on Ash Wednesday to hear a lecture by the Prime Minister. A group of seven people attempted to disrupt the lecture and are ejected. You give us 32 lines of report on the protesters, 15 lines on the Prime Minister's prepared address. What greater reward and reinforcement for future hooliganism can any handful of malcontents ask for?

Yours faithfully,
JANET JACKSON,
Saint Mary's Vicarage,
Standard Hill,
Nottingham.
March 5.

Prospects for the Social Democrats

From Mr A. D. R. Holland

Sir, Mr David Winnick's plea (March 4) to the Social Democrat MPs to resign their seats and fight by-elections would carry much more conviction if it was accompanied by a declaration from Mr Michael Foot that consequent upon the resignation of any of these MPs he would, within two weeks, move the writ for a by-election, since this is traditionally the prerogative of the party holding the seat at the General Election. More likely it is that the seat would be left empty for months on end, thus denying a platform to the new party.

If Mr Foot did give this assurance, and I doubt he will, we could enjoy the spectacle of twelve by-elections, spread over perhaps eighteen months, each indicating a crushing defeat for the Labour Party as now constituted.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY D. R. HOLLAND,
74 Warwick Street, W1.
March 4.

From Mr David Romney

Sir, I suspect that I am not alone among your readers in feeling alarmed and irritated by the spuriousity of the arguments with which you seek to sustain the cause of your latest protégés, the Social Democrats. The latter, having at last arrived at the status of a parliamentary group after a protracted public heart-searching and agonising designed to attract the maximum coverage from the media, should now, according to you, be granted all the privileges of a normal political party, although not elected under their present colours, and not intending to offer themselves for re-election in their present constituencies. This latter stance you seek to justify (leading article, March 3) by saying that it is not obligatory for them to do so, and that the case of Sir Dick Taverne was an "exception". I think you owe it to a man who once occupied the place in your affections now held by Mrs Williams to call it an "honourable exception".

Mr Bennice crossed the floor of the House and had the effrontery to represent Newham, of all places, as a Conservative for two or three years. The gang of twelve now propose to do the same thing, and you find this not only acceptable but laudable.

The Social Democrats seem to be deficient not only in socialism but also in democracy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROMNEY,
58 Creighton Avenue, N10.
March 3.

From Dr Stephen Haseler

Sir, Clive Bingley (March 4) argues that "The present leaders of the Campaign for Social Democracy were all intimately, indeed passionately, associated with government during the period of decline. What have they now done to warrant another chance?"

Mr Bingley misses the point. It is hardly the fault of the leaders of the CSD that Britain has declined: our present tragedy is the result of deep-seated historic social, economic and political factors way beyond the control of any of our post-war social democratic governments. To condemn the leaders of the Campaign for Social Democracy as allies as condemning the whole political class for our national malaise. It is also irrelevant to blame the left of the Labour Party for the decline of the country, since Benn has through the last Labour administration without resigning in protest). The growth of extremism

Tunnicliffe sale

From Mr Ian Prest

Sir, I am prompted to write by your article (March 4) about the proposed sale on May 15 at public auction of the entire artistic estate of the late Charles Tunnicliffe, OBE, RA, against his frequently expressed wishes and instructions. He was for many years a personal friend of mine and on more than one occasion let me know, also, of his wish that his measured drawings and sketchbooks should be preserved as a national collection after his death.

For this reason the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, with the approval and support of the Royal Academy and the National Museum of Wales, has started an appeal for funds in the hope that it may be in a position to make a bid at Christie's on May 15 and

Earlier retirement

From Mr Martin McMahon

Sir, Mr A. R. Beard, in his letter of March 4, suggests that if the age of retirement for men was lowered from 65 to 60 it would make jobs available to younger men. Although I agree that this may be true in an expanding economy I doubt whether this scheme would work in the present climate of economic decay. Most employers would, no doubt, be quite happy to retire all their male staff over 60 but it is most unlikely that they would fill all but the most essential posts with younger men. This would leave the Government with a considerably increased expenditure on pensions, with only a marginal decrease in unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN MCMAHON,
9 Trefoil Avenue,
Shawlands,
Glasgow.
March 4.

Who is agreeable?

From Mr John Wardroper

Sir, Philip Howard detects (March 4) a revival of the use of "agreeable" in the sense of "in agreement", which he suggests has been obsolete or obsolescent for three centuries. It is perhaps truer to say that the usage has never been obsolete, but merely rises and falls in public esteem. In 1804 Charles James Fox says in a letter: "It is agreeable to me to hear you say that I am a very agreeable one..." Yours agreeably,
JOHN WARDROPER,
60 St Paul's Road, N1.
March 4.

Worthy celebration of a royal event

From Sir Henry Marking

Sir, Can we not all try to ensure that the royal wedding in July is an occasion to celebrate together in our own communities in a spirit of unity, and so demonstrate to ourselves and to the world that Britain is truly one nation?

As the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 brought together the needs of Britain's cities, towns and villages in a spirit of communal rejoicing in a way not known since war imposed a sense of unity and common purpose on our country, so it could be again.

Could not the national and local celebrations committees, which did so well in Jubilee Year, be revived and get to work urgently? Yours faithfully,
HENRY MARKING,
Stretchall Hall,
Stretchall,
Clifton Walden,
Fyfe,
March 4.

Conservation powers

From Lord Craigton and others

Sir, The Government's initiative in introducing much-needed legislation in its Wildlife and Countryside Bill is to be welcomed, but it is drafted in such a way as to protect some of Britain's most outstanding landscapes, especially in our National Parks. There is cause for particular concern about open moorlands and heaths, especially on Exmoor and the North Yorkshire Moors, whose outstanding character and value as National Parks must be open to doubt if they are not adequately protected against undesirable agricultural development and afforestation.

An all-party amendment to the Bill was narrowly defeated at the committee stage in the House of Lords. A revised amendment, again with support from all parties, has been tabled for report stage, taking account of the further safeguard referred to by the Earl of Avon, Government spokesman at second reading.

Notwithstanding the Government's confidence that reliance can be placed solely on voluntary agreement with landowners and farmers, we believe that it is unrealistic to rely on a system which has no ultimate statutory constraint in our opinion reserve powers of last resort to conserve the moorland are essential. The revised amendment makes the exercise of a fallback compulsory power (except in the case of emergency) dependent on the owner or occupier having been offered a voluntary management agreement first.

We do not believe that Moorland Conservation Orders would prove to be a deterrent to the good will of the great majority of the farming community. On the contrary most farmers are willing to accept reasonable agreements. It is the odd man out who will take advantage of the importance of both the National Park Authority and the Ministers if no fall-back clause is included in the Bill. This advantage would be both damaging to prized landscapes and unfair to the farmers' neighbours who have agreed to abide by the voluntary system.

For this reason, we would urge all those who value our diminishing heritage of open countryside to seek support for the revised amendment. If this opportunity is lost, it may be many years before any further legislation can be introduced. By that time, it could be too late.

Yours faithfully,
CRAIGTON,
NORA DAVID,
JOHN FOOT,
JOHN HUNT,
EIRENE WHITE,
House of Lords, SW1.
March 6.

Sailor beware

From Captain J. A. R. Swainson, RN

Sir, A week ago today, I was able to experience the power and influence of a letter to *The Times*. You published a letter of mine concerning the scruffy nature of British Rail and its staff on February 26. Friday, February 27.

Phone call.
Saturday, February 28.
A piece in the *Daily Mirror*.
Monday, March 2.
Evening Standard interview.
Publication on page 3.

Tuesday, March 3.
Interview with London Broadcasting Corporation.
Wednesday, March 4.
Broadcasts, Capital and LBC.
Saturday, March 7.
Interview with *Kent Courier*.

Letters poured in all week. One of the nicest was from a Swainson from the north west, Lancaster, claiming his family were related and had been in the north for 200 years.

I have never written to *The Times* before in my life and was astonished at the impact. I wish to God I will stir Sir Peter Parker and his merry men.

May I say thank you to all those who kindly wrote to me.

Yours faithfully,
A. SWAINSON,
48 Springhead,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.
March 5.

A bench in the park

From Miss Helen Gregory

Sir, Is it not churlish of the Regent's Park superintendent to refuse a bench in the park to be dedicated to the memory of William Gerhardt (Michael Holroyd, February 28)? I, for one, would find such a modest memorial infinitely more pleasing than the strange looking sculptures at present dotted about the park? Yours truly,
HELEN GREGORY,
26A Tottenham Street, W1.
February 28.

A FOOLISH DEMAND FOR SANCTIONS

The demand by the General Assembly of the United Nations for full mandatory sanctions against South Africa will be vetoed in the Security Council, but it is a folly none the less. It follows the Assembly's stupidity in voting to prevent South Africa attending the debate, where it would have had to defend its own vulnerable action in frustrating the so-called pre-implementation settlement conference in Geneva. To impugn South Africa's rights as a member is not only to set a dangerous precedent; it also hands Mr Botha a gift for his election campaign (which started yesterday) and provides him with colourful proof of his contention in Geneva that the United Nations would not be impartial in a Namibian election. In South Africa itself, the progressive opposition parties are put at a disadvantage because they cannot criticize as they would wish the war of the Anglo-Namibia frontier which grows steadily more violent.

Mr Botha wrecked the Geneva conference to strengthen his position in an early general election called to dispose of his own disidents, who are gathered round Mr Treuericht. But the possibility was left open that once the election was over, and the disidents duly trounced, Mr Botha could back-track and return to negotiations over Namibia. However, to do so it would first be necessary for the United Nations to modify its recognition of Swapo as the only representative of the peoples of Namibia. This could be managed, the five western powers would have a

basis for rescuing the cease-fire and the "free and fair" elections which the United Nations is to supervise. Not only has the UN made no such move towards compromise, the General Assembly has made the deadlock much worse.

South Africa is of course waiting to see what the policy of the Reagan Administration on Namibia will be. The Assembly's votes will strengthen the hands of those in Washington who sympathize with the South African argument that the Namibia-Angola frontier war is as much a part of the defence of the free world as is the line-up in El Salvador.

South Africa would be glad to dodge any necessity to return to negotiations and to delay recourse to elections in Namibia for a few years. Pretoria hopes against hope that such a period would enable the Turnhalle Alliance of local parties to build up its electoral appeal against Swapo. The South African generals are confident of holding their own in the border war, and even dream of "winning" it if they are given full freedom to drive deeply into Angola.

Although the war is getting expensive, South Africa is prosperous. Given the backing of white public opinion it can certainly sustain the effort and cost. Nevertheless, if it is to continue to stall a negotiated settlement and Namibian independence, it would like some degree of approval or authority for its policy from Washington. The premature and ill-considered demand for full sanctions next

week puts the West into a poor position to exert pressure on Pretoria for a resumption of negotiations.

The war is dangerous. Cooler heads in Pretoria recognize this. The growing scale of the war has not been fully revealed to the public in the West. For their own separate reasons, both South Africa and Angola prefer to draw a veil over it. The fact is that South African troops are increasingly often engaged with Angolan regular forces, quite apart from the fighting between South Africans and the Swapo guerrillas (who maintain their strength despite enormous casualties) and between Angolan regulars and the Savimbi rebel guerrillas, who are secretly supported and kept in the field by South Africa. If at any time Cuba and Russia wish to engage in a new way to strengthen their hold in Africa, the situation is increasingly favourable.

It was because South Africa could see the dangers of an escalating war that the settlement so nearly succeeded. South Africa accepted the United Nations role, suitably defined, and Swapo, hoping for a peaceful Mugabe-type victory at the polls, made concessions to South Africa so as to make elections possible. These were the fruits of western diplomacy. They could have been salvaged even after Geneva, but for this latest intervention at the United Nations. If they are to be resuscitated, it will now be by a decision of the Reagan Administration.

MR SPEAKER THOMAS

Previous Speakers have been identified in the public mind mainly by their black knee-breeches and silver shoe-buckles. Mr George Thomas has been the first to have become known principally by his voice. Since regular parliamentary broadcasts began in 1978, his "Order, order!" on the radio has punctuated the day like the more sonorous Westminster note of Big Ben. It is a Chapel voice, dry, not unamused, courteous in asserting its authority but confident that it will be respected. It controls the factitious tumult of the House without bluster or dismay. It is the voice of one of the outstanding Speakers of the years since the war.

Happily it is not to fall silent at once. Mr Thomas announced yesterday that he will retire from his position at the end of this Parliament, which probably gives ample scope for many more brushes with Mr Ian Paisley and Mr Dennis Skinner. The Commons in the 1980s is an unruly place, though older parliamentarians may jealously insist that

the upstarts of today are only a shadow of those of the past. It is true that some of Mr Thomas's predecessors in the past 40 years have been less adept at keeping the conflicts of the day in check. Yet in his earlier career, authority might not have seemed an obvious quality of his; still less the faculty of standing above controversy.

The office of Speaker confers authority, of course, but he has brought to it a wit that disarms the indignant and pompous, and an acute sense of the mood of the House. On the Erskine May side of things, Speakers today call on many more advisers than their predecessors, but they still need a deep knowledge of procedure to react quickly and wisely to problems as they arise in debate. There has never been a Speaker of whom Mr Thomas would forfeit the respect of members by showing a faltering touch at such moments.

The need to choose a successor will revive many old arguments about the role of Speaker, and

his election. It is an anomaly that he sits as member for a constituency, whose electors are thereby effectively disfranchised so far as political issues are concerned (though in exercising influence on their behalf behind the scenes, a Speaker is in a position to be particularly effective). It has often been proposed that the election of a Speaker should mean a by-election in his constituency. But it would be incongruous with the spirit of the House for its chairman (and his deputies) to be without the constituency ties that all other members share.

It must be hoped that the Commons can find as good a parliamentarian, as wise and as humorous, to succeed Mr Thomas. The wider public may also hope that his successor's voice, broadcast on schoolday mornings, will have as much inherent authority as his in calling to order the children who should be getting their coats on, as well as those who sit on the backbenches.

Selsdon Group formation

From Mr Richard Ritchie

Sir, I am sure that Mr Heath was as horrified as we were to read in your report (March 4) that the Selsdon Group had been formed by him before he came to power. This is not so.

It is true that Mr Heath's policies in the latter part of his administration were responsible for the Group's formation: but it would be as unfair to blame Mr Heath for Selsdon Group pronouncements as it would be to blame us for his mistakes.

If Mr Heath seeks to join the

Selsdon Group we shall of course consider his application seriously—but we cannot, I am afraid, hold our very much hope.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RITCHIE,
Chairman,
Selsdon Group,
170 Sloane Street, SW1.

Personal
investment
and finance,
pages 18 and 19

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets

FT Ind 489.1, down 7.1
FT Gilts 68.36, down 0.25

Sterling

\$2.1940, down 100 pts
Index 93.7, down 0.3

Dollar

Index 100.8, up 0.1
DM2.1325, down 35 pts

Gold

\$468.50, up \$5

Money

3-month sterling 12.12
3-month Euro-S 16.15-16.25
6-month Euro-S 16.15-16.25

Socal makes record bid of \$4,000m for American mining group

By Michael Prest

Standard Oil of California, one of the world's biggest companies, has made a record bid of \$4,000m for Ammax, the diversified American natural resources company. The Ammax director said yesterday that they would not support the offer.



Mr Pierre Gousseland: detailed and complex bid.

The offer is in either a combination of shares and cash or straight cash, and is believed to be the world's biggest takeover bid. Socal, which already owns 20 per cent of Ammax, made an unsuccessful bid of \$1,600m for Ammax three years ago.

If the bid succeeds, it could open the way to other takeovers of mining and natural resources companies by oil majors. Since they effectively lost control of the production of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in the early 1970s, the oil companies have been using their huge incomes to diversify.

By the time Socal made its bid, the price of oil had fallen sharply in the last quarter of 1980. Ammax made pretax profits of \$633m last year, but could earn less in 1981.

Most of the prices of the metals mined by Ammax are falling, and earnings fell off sharply in the last quarter of 1980. Ammax made pretax profits of \$633m last year, but could earn less in 1981.

The anti-trust question may partly depend on the attitude of the Reagan Administration, but the main obstacle is probably Ammax's oil and natural gas interests, and Socal might be willing to sell these.

Because the new bid is worth about twice the Ammax share price at the time of the offer, the Ammax directors may also be "audited" out of the takeover for fear of a shareholder suit. They also face a possible increase in the bid's value.

Despite the Ammax board's criticism, the bid is a detailed and complex one.

Ammax has two lines of defence. One is that the offer undervalues its shares. The other is that a takeover would breach anti-trust legislation. Some City analysts value Ammax shares at \$90 to \$100 each on the basis of the company's assets.

Socal has bid for the 51 million common Ammax stock it does not already control. The bid, described by Mr Pierre Gousseland, chairman of Ammax,

as "detailed and complex", offers shareholders share and cash alternatives. The share offer is a mixture of Social common and convertible preferred stock, intended to allow a tax-free transaction.

The previous Socal bid valued Ammax shares at \$57 each. That bid was widely felt to be too low and badly timed, and Socal did not pursue it.

But the bid was not a great surprise, because Socal had bought 20 per cent of Ammax for \$255m in 1975 and was expected eventually to try for the rest.

One party which will be watching events closely and could influence the outcome is Selection Trust, now part of RPI. It holds 7.5 per cent of Ammax, regarded as a long term investment, now valued by the Socal offer at around \$130m.

Stockbrokers in the City and on Wall Street emphasize that the bid could revive interest in the whole sector of natural resources and mining stocks. It could send analysts looking for other bidders and targets.

Yet Socal's success should not be taken for granted. The offer values Ammax at about 10 times earnings, which is not regarded as a high and Wall Street stockbrokers are advising clients to wait either for a bigger offer from Socal or another bidder.

An Ammax spokesman said from the company's headquarters in Greenwich, Connecticut: "We always maintained we were a viable company and the interests of shareholders are best served by us continuing." But he added that Ammax would be prepared to negotiate to explore further talks.

The last bid approaching the size of the Socal offer was the \$3,500m bid by Shell for Belfrage Oil two years ago.

That bid was not blocked by anti-trust action, a precedent which Socal will not miss. At the time of the previous bid for Ammax in 1978 each side claimed that legal counsel supported its case.

Lockwoods Foods calls in receiver

By Rosemary Unsworth

Lockwoods Foods, a Lincolnshire fruit and vegetable canning group, has collapsed. Dealings in the company's shares were suspended yesterday morning with the price at 32p, 12p above the year's "low", after it had asked National Westminster Bank to appoint a receiver.

Last night Sir Kenneth Cook and Mr Paul Shewell of Cork Gully were appointed joint receivers of Lockwoods Foods and Lockwoods Canners, the group's two main companies.

The group, which went public 21 years ago and used "Everything in the Garden" as its advertising slogan, lost \$3.2m last year. Increased interest charges on borrowings, which had reached £15m compared with £6.6m in shareholders' funds, the steel strike, which cost the group £1.25m, and a loss at its French meat canning business which was subsequently closed, were blamed.

At the end of last year the company announced an extensive restructuring programme which entailed closing its Boston factory and concentrating production at the two Lonz Sutton factories.

The decision to close the factory was made against a background of intense competition and low demand for canned fruit and vegetables. It had been further influenced by rising wages, rates, fuel, electricity and other services.

The company has two other plants: at Goulton, north of Humberston, where it employs 80 people, and at Forfar, Angus, where there are 50 employees.

In 1978 Lockwoods produced record pre-tax profits of £2.25m on sales of £40m, but it suffered by moving into the carbonated drinks business. Nevertheless net assets a share were 105p in the last accounts.

Apart from the directors and their families who have a 24 per cent stake in the group, the main shareholder is IFCF, the venture capital arm of Finance for Industry, with 14 per cent.

Mr Philip Lockwood, the chairman, said in his annual statement that the group planned to reduce borrowings by £5m by the sale of the Boston factory, but that a return to profitability in the second half of the current year depended on an improvement in demand after the new year.

City broker moves to British Shipbuilders

British Shipbuilders has recruited Mr Michael Robinson, one of the City's leading shipbrokers, to be director of sales for the merchant shipbuilding division. Mr Robinson, managing director of Eggar, Forrester and Co., will take up the appointment early in May.

He will be responsible for the corporation's overall merchant ship sales policy and its sales operations in Athens and Hongkong. Marketing was formerly the responsibility of Mr James Gilliland, the managing director, marketing.

There have been close links between Eggar, Forrester and the corporation and over the past few years the shipbroking company has been involved in more than 50 contracts placed with British Shipbuilders yards.

Lorho loses appeal

Lorho's £116m compensation claim against Shell and BP over alleged Rhodesian sanctions "has been turned down by the Court of Appeal. Lorho was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords."

Law Report, page 5

Truck sales down

Sales of commercial vehicles in the United Kingdom last month were 17,509, a fall of 32.5 per cent on a year earlier. Imports captured 28 per cent of the market, up from 23.3 per cent.

Burberry jobs cut

Burberry, the raincoat manufacturer, has issued redundancy notices to its 200 workforce at its Reading, Berkshire, factory. The company is a subsidiary of Great Universal Stores.

Fewer building 'starts'

Builders started work on 9,800 houses and flats during January, against 12,700 in the corresponding period last year.

German hotels bought

Bass, the brewing and leisure company, and owner of Crest Hotels, is paying £9m for a controlling interest in Hollstein Hotels, a privately-owned West German business.

Prime rate cut

Southwest Bank of St Louis has lowered its prime rate to 18 per cent from 19 per cent. Most American banks have an 18 per cent prime.

Change of control

Rolls-Royce has relinquished control of its Deeside Titanium subsidiary to Billiton UK. Rolls-Royce will retain a 20 per cent interest in the North Wales company.

Money supply falls

The United States' basic money supply M1-A fell to a seasonally-adjusted average of \$364,900m (£165,860m) in the week ended February 25 from \$366,700m the previous week.

Wall St unchanged

The Dow Jones industrial average closed unchanged at 964.62. The S&P 500 was 121.849. The £ was 0.557789.

Rise in US jobless and prices eases

From Frank Vogl

American unemployment and inflation showed an improvement in February, although government officials fear that coming months will see more sharp rises.

The Bureau of Labour Statistics reported that wholesale prices rose on a seasonally-adjusted basis by 0.8 per cent last month, after a gain of 0.9 per cent in January. These prices have increased by 10.4 per cent in 12 months.

Unemployment equalled 7.3 per cent last month after 7.4 per cent in January. There are now 7.8 million unemployed.

The statistics showed falls in adult jobless rates for teenage unemployment rose from 19 per cent to 19.3 per cent and unemployment among black Americans increased from 12.9 per cent to 13.1 per cent.

Latest forecasts suggest an average unemployment rate this year of 7.8 per cent. Little real growth is seen for the economy for 1981, while the labour force will continue to rise.

There were moderate gains in food prices, but prices of crude materials which have an important effect on wholesale prices—rose sharply last month, advancing by 2.6 per cent after a January gain of 1.1 per cent. This advance is a key factor in predictions of worsening inflation.

President Reagan's decision to decontrol oil prices was inflationary. Today's data showed that the index of crude petroleum prices rose by 3.7 per cent in February.

As a result the overall index of crude goods prices rose by 2.9 per cent, despite falls in crude non-food materials other than energy of 3.4 per cent.

Temporary injunction on Norton refused

A High Court judge yesterday refused an application for a temporary injunction requiring Norton Warburg Management Investments to provide "as much information as reasonably possible" on cash belonging to investors.

Mr Justice Dillon heard from Mr Michael Lyndon-Stanford, QC, that Norton Warburg Management Investments had been ordered to provide "as much information as reasonably possible" on cash belonging to investors.

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According to the company's statement of affairs, a "so-called" loan of £2.5m had been made to the parent company.

Mr Lyndon-Stanford said it was possible that the money might have gone "even further astray" and possibly even into the hands of directors.

His clients are uneasy that the cash is being dissipated and he is leaving the country," he said.

While refusing the application for a temporary injunction, Mr Justice Dillon said he would be reluctant to make a mandatory order in such "nebulous" terms which might lead to subsequent contempt proceedings.

But he said it would be "helpful" if they could provide any information they had obtained for the purposes of a creditors' meeting to be held next Tuesday.

Mr Lyndon-Stanford's application had been supported by a letter from investors represented by Mr David Oliver.

The investors' application for the appointment of a receiver and manager was adjourned.

25,000 jobs in SE 'at risk'

By David Hewson

London and the South-east face the loss of 25,000 jobs because of steep local authority rate rises as a result of the Government's cut in financial support to the capital, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry said yesterday.

An interim survey by the chamber revealed that 26 per cent of 300 companies surveyed intended to reduce staffing levels because of rate increases, and a further 25 per cent will cut back on investment, research and development.

A spokesman said yesterday that the bulk of the job losses were likely to be in the light, precision and mechanical engineering sectors and textiles, involving small to medium size companies, and would come from the Greater London area.

The cut for London councils has resulted in rate increases for industry which range from between 40 and 45 per cent when the final increases are decided, the spokesman said.

In addition to the job losses, a number of companies were considering moving out of town because of the rising cost of working in London.

In a recent letter to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, the chamber described the block grant system as ill-considered and said it would cause excessive rate increases in London.

It said that the Government had failed to understand the scale of the economic problems facing industry and commerce in London and called for new initiatives by the Government.

Poland set to halve investment plans

By Roman Eisenstein

Poland is planning reforms as part of an economic rescue package which is being agreed in a document presented to Western bankers at a meeting this week. Poland suggested it would halve its investment plans from 28 per cent to 14 per cent of its gross national product over the next three years.

While cutting investment, Poland intends to shift the emphasis of any investment from heavy industry to agriculture and consumer goods. Spending on agriculture is set to increase, including spending on machinery and fertilizers.

Poland is considering applying for membership of the International Monetary Fund, an organization which it left in 1950. Such a decision would have a major political consequence and the Warsaw Government would have to weigh the options carefully before it made any move.

As part of its continuing need to reschedule debts, Poland will be seeking loans of around \$7,000m (£3,180m) in 1982 to refinance maturing debt. It may need further loans to bridge a deficit in the country's balance of trade.

The 70 Western banks presented with the report have so far refused to commit and have formed a liaison group of about 15 to consider the proposals in full. A decision is expected in the next few weeks, and on this will hinge further loans to Poland over the next few years.

According to bankers at Thursday's meeting the presentation by the five-man delegation from Bank Handlowy did not answer specific questions on Poland's ability to meet its debt obligations in future years.

The document presented by the delegation shows that Poland will remain in external deficit until 1986, by which time it expects that its current account deficit will be turning into surplus. Much however depends on whether Polish industry recovers from its present difficulties.

The document shows that Poland will have to rely on external credits for several years to come. Some bankers feel that the needs will be around \$10,000m a year for the next two years. Of this about \$4,500m will be sought in credits not tied to purchases of goods.

The Polish document suggests that credits not tied to buying goods will decrease over the next few years until 1985, after which all credits will be linked to purchases.

The Polish report shows that the growth in industrial production this year. This will be the result of shorter working hours and more limited prospects for imports. The report is more optimistic on an increase in agricultural production, which last year fell by 10 per cent.

Poland's gap fell by 4 per cent last year, making a fall of more than 6 per cent in two years. The report blames a deficient central planning system, too much investment in capital goods and bad weather. It says that the government is working towards a more decentralized economy.

Poland expects that exports will remain static in 1981, but the document hints that growth in export volume between 6 and 8 per cent is possible over the next few years.

British Telecom cash limit raised by a further £145m

By Peter Hill

The Government has raised the external financing limit of British Telecom within weeks of the end of the financial year. Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry announced yesterday in a parliamentary written answer that the limit was being increased by £145m to £223m in the financial year now nearing its end from the original level of £78m.

While welcoming the decision, Sir George Jefferson, the chairman of British Telecom, said that the increase still fell short of the real needs of the corporation this year.

"This is certainly not the case of a Government coming to the aid of a large duck. We are a profitable, wealth-creating and growing business which helps to sustain work for some 100,000 people in the private sector as well as the 340,000 we employ ourselves," he said in a statement.

Sir Keith said that the increase would be funded from the contingency reserve and would be within planned totals of public expenditure.

It reflected the effects of the recession and the corporation's additional working capital requirements which had arisen from difficulties in forecasting stock levels when control procedures were disrupted by industrial action.

An important factor was the dispute which delayed the issue of telephone bills in the last financial year and which led to delays in payment totalling £345m against which the Post Office had to make short-term borrowings.

The main effect of the measures will be to reduce net repayments by the Post Office from £210m to £135m in the present financial year.

British Telecom lost £19m in the first half and Sir George has warned the Government that it is unlikely to be able to achieve more than a 5 per cent real return on its net assets this year against the original target of 6 per cent.

Sir Keith stressed that the Government expected the corporation to do everything in its power to keep the gap to a minimum and it would not allow any increase beyond £145m.

Sir George said that for the year as a whole British Telecom expected to be in profit, but it was still vital that the corporation should be allowed to borrow more in the coming year if it was to protect investment vital to its customers' interest.

The Corporation, which has an annual turnover of about £4,500m, has funded virtually the whole of its investment programme from internal resources in the past.

Over the past few months it has been discussing with the Government ways in which its borrowings could be increased to finance further investment from private sector sources which would not affect the public sector borrowing requirement.

Licensing control: The National Computer Centre has proposed to Sir Keith Joseph that an independent body should be set up to advise on the control of licensing arrangements under the British Telecommunications Bill, now going through Parliament (Kanneth Owen writes).

The centre says that the Bill would create a need for users, suppliers and British Telecom to have continuing access to the Secretary of State. British Telecom has this access, but the other parties do not.

Inquiry on milk distribution ruled out

By Derek Harris

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is not going to investigate milk distribution, which has been the target of complaints about high shop prices compared with doorstep deliveries.

Mr Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, has decided against the move because a preliminary investigation showed that dairies recently started offering more competitive prices to larger retail customers.

Discounts allowed to shops had increased significantly, with a number of retailers now selling milk in cartons at prices below that of doorstep deliveries claims the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

But Mr Borrie said: "The supply of milk for retail has until very recently been inhibited." He added that the extra competition should increase opportunities for consumers who wished to buy their milk in shops more cheaply than the doorstep price.

The view was echoed yesterday by large multiple retailers. Tesco Stores is still selling carton milk at 18p, but it is switching to higher volume milk sales and hopes to get better discounts as a result.

Sir John Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive of J. Sainsbury, a leading campaigner for a better deal from the dairies for the multiples, said: "This is a move in the right direction and I welcome Mr Borrie's action. I believe now more changes will come."

Sainsbury for some time has been selling at 18p a pint and on two-pint packs, has been able to sell at a saving of 1p a pint compared with the doorstep price.

A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-8 A defence against inflation

The dividend record of Investment Trusts has stood up well over time, particularly in recent years. Over the five-year period 1st January, 1976 to 31st December, 1980 Investment Trust dividends grew on average by 11.1 per cent as measured by the Financial Times-Accumulated Index of Investment Trusts compared over the same period with an 8.9 per cent growth in the Retail Price Index (RPI) and 10.6 per cent growth in the dividends of those shares which make up the Financial Times-Accumulated All-Share Index (All-Share Index).

As the figure of 11.1 per cent dividend growth for Investment Trusts is an average, some Trusts will have beaten inflation by an even more handsome margin over the period. In fact, over a quarter of all Trusts managed to achieve a compound dividend growth rate over the five years of over 20 per cent per annum which compares with an annual compound growth rate for the RPI of 14 per cent.

These figures are only concerned with dividends and take no account of the appreciation in the value of the shares themselves or of the underlying assets. In the same five-year period to 31st December, 1980 Investment Trust share prices grew on average by just over 85 per cent compared with growth of just under 85 per cent for the All-Share Index, while Investment Trust asset values grew by an average of 79 per cent.

This performance is impressive when it is remembered that it was achieved in a difficult period for Investment Trusts. Exchange Controls were in operation until the autumn of 1979, sterling was strong and several overseas markets performed in a lack-lustre fashion. In these circumstances the Investment Trust sector did remarkably well.

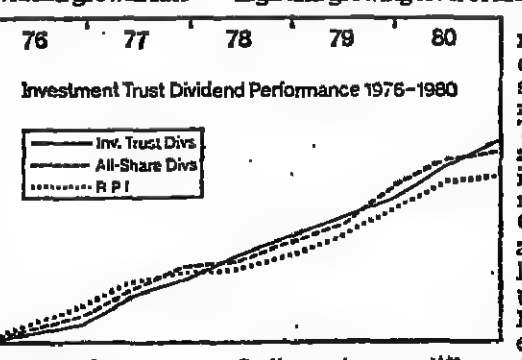
Indeed, the abolition of Exchange Controls in the autumn of 1979 together with the exemption from April 1980 of Investment Trusts from having to pay tax on their capital gains have contributed to the fact that during 1980 Investment Trusts were one of the best performing sectors—their share prices grew on average by 48 per cent compared with 27 per cent for the All-Share Index, while their asset values grew on average by 23 per cent and the RPI by 15 per cent.

While past performance is not necessarily a guide to future achievement it can be seen that the Investment Trust sector provides a viable proposition for a broad cross-section of investors—whether they are seeking income growth or capital appreciation.

Versatility

An important advantage of the Investment Trust sector is the range of investment opportunities it provides. As well as Ordinary shares, Preference shares, and loan stocks the sector also offers variations designed either to minimise tax or to maximise income.

One of these is the "Split Capital" Trust which offers Capital shares (mainly for capital appreciation) and Income shares (mainly for a high and growing level of income).



A few Investment Trusts have convertible loan stocks and/or warrants outstanding. The former offer a fixed level of income and the right to convert into Ordinary shares according to terms laid down at the time of issue. The latter carry solely an entitlement to buy the underlying assets. In the same five-year period to 31st December, 1980 Investment Trust share prices grew on average by just over 85 per cent compared with growth of just under 85 per cent for the All-Share Index, while Investment Trust asset values grew by an average of 79 per cent.

Optimism

The two recent boosts to the sector provide optimism for the future. The abolition of Exchange Controls in the autumn of 1979 means that Investment Trusts are now able to buy foreign securities without having to purchase foreign currencies at premium rates or having to take out borrowings which, in some cases in the past, had a detrimental effect on their revenue. The effect will be to increase yields on holdings of foreign stocks.

The bigger boost however arises from the 1980 Finance Act, as a result of which Investment Trusts are now exempt from paying tax on their capital gains. This means that the income-producing base of Investment Trusts will not now be eroded by their having to pay away part of their capital base in tax. It also means that a serious impediment to the proper management of investments has been removed and that the inherent advantages of investing in Investment Trust shares, especially their spread of risk in a time of uncertainty, are restoring their popularity as a profitable medium of investment.

Japan's top car maker set to become world leader Toyota passing General Motors

The Toyota motor company of Japan may soon surpass America's General Motors to become the world's leading manufacturer of cars.

The latest production survey prepared by Toyota, shows that Japan's leading car manufacturer has emerged as the world's second largest producer, after General Motors.

But trends of the survey indicate that Toyota, which chalked up a huge pre-tax profit of \$1,250m (£568m) last year, might soon overtake the production figures of the debilitated and debt-ridden General Motors.

Two years ago, Toyota was listed as the world's third largest manufacturer after GM and Ford, when the Japanese company produced 2.9 million cars, about 3.5 million units less than its leading American rival.

In sharp contrast, both Toyota and Nissan, Japan's other leading maker surpassed Ford last year to emerge as the world's second and third largest producers. Two other Japanese companies, Toyo Kogyo and Mitsubishi Motors, are listed among the world's 10 leading car producers.

More significantly, the gap at the top is narrowing rapidly. Last year, for instance, GM produced 4.7 million cars, only 1.4 million units more than Toyota.

Statistics indicate that GM's output declined by 26.2 per cent last year to 4.7 million units, while production at Toyota's 10 highly efficient plants in Japan increased by 9 per cent to 3.3 million units. By comparison, Ford's output plunged by 38 per cent to 1.8 million units.

Japan, which only produced 32,000 vehicles 25 years ago, also did better than the United States last year as the world's leading car-building country.

Japanese economists, comparing Toyota's ambitious plans with the plight of American car makers, are convinced Toyota will soon outpace General Motors.

Toyota intends to install an additional 720 advanced industrial robots in its plants over the next two years, to increase productivity on production lines.

Peter Hazelhurst

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Cong Gold Fields	7p to 42.8p	NCL Holdings	10p to 34.5p
Coca-Cola	2p to 29p	NCC Energy	25p to 116p
Crown Group	7p to 16.5p	RTZ	7p to 42.9p
Croftville	13p to 33.1p	Staff Poets	5p to 53p
Ldn Utd Inv	15p to 20.3p	Travis & Arnold	7p to 15.5p

Falls

Caledonia Inv	41p to 22.8p	Lamo	25p to 62.2p
BAT Ind	14p to 27.6p	Nat West	14p to 33.1p
Farnell Elec	18p to 34.9p	Paragon Oil	30p to 64.5p
Ferranti	15p to 53.9p	Unilever	14p to 42.8p
Gordon & Gotch	15p to 12.3p		

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.95	1.97	Norway Kr	12.50	11.85
Belgium Fr	35.10	32.90	Portugal Esc	126.00	120.00
Canada \$	71.75	77.75	South Africa R	2.05	2.05
Denmark Kr	2.70	2.61	Spain Ptas	163.50	164.50
Finland Mk	15.40	14.60	Sweden Kr	10.65	10.10
France Fr	9.45	9.35	Switzerland Fr	4.46	4.23
Germany DM	11.40	10.90	USA \$	2.24	2.17
Greece Dr	4.66	4.62	Yugoslavia Dnr	82.00	76.50
Hongkong \$	116.00	110.00			
Ireland P	12.10	11.50			
Italy Lir	1.33	1.27			
Japan Yen	2340.00	2230.00			
Netherlands Gld	462.00	456.00			
	\$36	\$10			

Rates for small denomination notes only, at supplied rate by bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Reprints of the complete eight-part series which makes up "A Guide to Investment Trusts" are available on request from The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, 1st Floor, 10 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JJ. Or telephone 01-588 5317.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Unit trusts

Gilts funds stand by for a cut in MLR

It is by now almost a foregone conclusion that on Tuesday the Chancellor's Budget speech will be accompanied by a cut in minimum lending rate. The question which is exercising City minds is what size the cut will be.

It is a curious comment upon stock market affairs that equity fund managers, keener perhaps on a government U-turn to re-vitalize the British industry, are more optimistic about a larger reduction than the managers of the new breed of gilt unit trusts. Gilt managers, to a man and woman, are predicting a cut in MLR of 2 per cent.

The question for them is how far this has already been anticipated by the short end of the gilt market. Conventional wisdom has it that the main beneficiaries of interest rate reductions are in short-dated stocks, but not all fund managers are now planning their faith on this sector.

Another reason why some fund managers are avoiding the short end of the market is because of their need to maintain a high quoted yield. Many of the new gilt funds which have appeared in the last six months or so have been sold on the back of their yields—a consideration which is keeping the fund managers firmly anchored in long-dated government stocks.

Other fund managers are keeping their dividend payments sweet by devoting more attention to the "fixed interest" element in their portfolios. Preference shares, industrial debentures and loan stock are represented, in varying degrees, in some of the portfolios.

Although most of the fund managers have already made their strategic decisions as to the basic make-up of their gilt unit trust portfolios, a great deal of last-minute tactical advantage is being sought in the market.

The restrictions on the

GILT FUNDS & THE INDEX

F.T. Brit Gov all stocks index	% rise
Target Gilt Cap Growth	7.4
Craigmount Gilt S & P Gilt & Fixed Int	6.2
S & P Gilt & Fixed Int Income	6.0
Fidelity Gilt & Fixed Int	5.2
Arbuthnot Gilt & Fixed Int	3.5
Abbey Gilt & Fixed Int	3.3
Allen Harvey & Ross Gilt	3.2
Allied Hambro Gov Sec	3.1
Garfmore Gilt	3.0
Henderson Gilt	1.7

* Offer to offer price, percentage change inclusive of dividends September 1, 1980-March 1, 1981. Source: Unit Trust Portfolio Management.

Chancellor, and therefore on the Budget, have already been absorbed and, as the trading range has narrowed, the name of the game for many fund managers now lies in taking tiny turns as stock becomes available and remaining fairly liquid in order to be able to make these quick forays in and out of the market.

This jockeying for the minutest advantage in stock price is possible because, for all the so-called science of investment in gilts, fund managers just do not agree about the right course of action at present.

Take the portfolio composition of the three gilt unit trusts which aim to produce capital growth rather than income. None of the managers has the same view of the market and this is reflected in the choice of gilt funds.

Save and Prosper's £2.5m Gilt and Fixed Interest Growth, yielding 5.0 per cent, is 15 per cent liquid, 40 per cent in short-dated stocks, and the balance is in certain volatile long-dated stocks.

Target Gilt Capital fund is 25 per cent liquid and 75 per cent in long-dated stock. The yield on the £4.2m fund is 3.3 per cent. The new Hill Samuel Gilt and Fixed Interest Growth fund, which has already pulled in £250,000, is virtually fully invested in medium gilts (with a life span between 5 and 15 years).

Despite this difference of opinion, however, the two older capital-oriented gilt funds from Save and Prosper and Target have managed to top the very brief six-month performance charts for gilt funds, although even they have not managed to out-class the FT British Government all stocks index.

Bristol-based unit trust portfolio managers, Unit Trust Portfolio Management, have recently run the slide-rule over the gilt unit trusts which were in existence last September (approximately half the up-coming and still growing list). None of them, with dividends included, managed to beat the FT all stocks index, which rose by 7.4 per cent in the September 1-March 1 period.

Target Gilt Capital was nearly there with a 6.3 per cent rise. Craigmount Gilt (a tiny fund of some £160,000) came next with a 6.2 per cent gain, while S & P Gilt and Fixed Interest Growth was third on the list with a rise of 6 per cent.

Six months is, of course, far too short a period on which to judge any unit trust, let alone newcomers which are only just getting into their stride. Prospective investors, however, do not have the time to do the longer-term performance figures.

The gilt market looks set for an exciting few weeks and there is only one day left to buy ahead of the Budget.

Margaret Stone

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Double or quits

The good gambler's rule of thumb

Call me what you like (I cannot hear you, a tempter of fate I try not to be. Good gamblers, like good businessmen, strive to eliminate risk because safe profits are better than exciting losses).

Oh, I know what the market thought of dividend cuts from ICI to say nothing of Ions and Unilever. But still I find it chattering, not cheering, that the FT Index has stormed up from 446 in only seven weeks.

Still, I ask myself whether Sir Geoffrey Howe can rise as quickly to the occasion next Tuesday and whether the economy and company profits can learn to run as fast as share buyers now expect.

The market always overdoes things, up or down. The unrelenting say that the market is always right. So it is in a way. It changes its mind as it goes along. Now, if needs be, is the time for us to do the same. My little table shows the vital statistics of previous gambles or rather only those where we left the profits (or losses) to run. We prudently took a fistful of profits last September, not long before the market broke.

It is only a table of unfinished business. In no sense is it a portfolio, nor is it meant to be.

Westland shows what it means to let profits run. The immediate gamble is that Westland will get the support of the Government for the project to replace Sea King helicopters. It is essentially an Anglo-Italian scheme and Italy has declared in favour. So it would be awkward for Britain to refuse.

Remarkably, the shares still sell at less than six times earnings. Keep them.

M.K. Electric is strong on assets and the housing market for its 13 amp plugs must turn

up at some stage. But I do not know how long we must wait and the shares seem high enough. Sell.

M.J. Gleeson has risen smartly since we bought them, but I think its rating as a property rather than as a construction group has some way to go. I see that Mr. Remo Dine is now on board as a shareholder. He is the financier who got in and out of homebuilder Gough Cooper last year (profitably) and in 1978 his master company, Star west, off the same with Trident Group Printers. He is now about to absorb Hawthorn Leslie. Hold.

Feeling better? Good, for

now we must take our medicine. I cannot see Fidelity going anywhere. Sell.

Reynolds Diversified was a tiny bet at only 41p and it is even a tinier one now. But I cannot get excited about its specialities, oil and gold, or, rather, their discovery. Neither can the market. Sell.

Myson, one of the leading heating and radiator companies, is enough to make one splutter. Here, if I could only learn it, is a lesson in timing. Our gamble was at 50p and, since the beginning of last year, the shares have been up to 72p and down to 25p. Lately they have been rising nicely, to 40p in fact.

The shares could again tumble when the awful news about last year's trading comes out next month, but, flying in the face of conventional wisdom, we shall run our losses. Myson is essentially a gamble on the value someone, somewhere, places on market shares. At last we stop moping and start gambling. Vickers, a great name in our industrial history, is still best known for what it no longer does—guns, ships and aircraft. The Govern-

ment took these for a bit money.

Now it is trying to make new name through five divisions. Motor cars (Roll Royce), engineering equipment (diesel engines, bearings and on), engineering products (Rhone-Vickers office furniture and tanks, machine tools etc.), Howson-Algraphy (mass printing plates) and International.

The gamble is that Mr. David Plastow, still only 47, the chief executive and former managing director of Roll Royce, will take this sprawling giant with a likely turnover of nearly £600m this year by its proverbial scruff and extract decent return from it.

If he does (and the business background is getting better all the time), profits of say £26m, in 1980 could become £44m or so by 1982. The shares, now 162p, yield less than 11 per cent, but it is a rock steady return. If those profits transpire, a market capitalization of £119m will come to seem modest. If...

Peter Wainwright

WINNERS

Company	Buying price	Price now	Date bought	Action
Westland	47p	136p	1.12.79	Hold
M.K. Electric	174p	202p	5.7.80	Sell
M. J. Gleeson	81p	81p	17.1.81	Hold

LOSERS

Company	Buying price	Price now	Date bought	Action
Fidelity	36p	32p	6.9.80	Sell
Myson	50p	40p	6.9.80	Hold
Reynolds Diversified	41p	25p	1.11.80	Sell

Life assurance

Policies take more note of inflation

The value of a non-profit life assurance policy, be it term, endowment or whole-life, taken out at the beginning of the seventies will look woefully inadequate in terms of cover at the end of the decade. Inflation has been particularly slow in adapting its products to enable the policyholder to keep pace with inflation by increasing the sum assured throughout the term.

When it wants to, the industry can be quick off the mark and policies have become much more flexible—particularly in areas where the life company's profitability or market share. In the areas of greater concern to policyholders, the pace of innovation has been much slower.

Take term assurance, for example. This provides a cheap form of protection under which the insurance company pays out a fixed sum if you die during the term, but nothing if you survive it. Companies offer

convertible term assurance, where you can change the policy to a more permanent form of insurance; and renewable convertible term policies have been introduced more recently which allow you to renew your policy without further evidence of health at the end of the term. But this is also a matter of self-interest for the companies, making it easy to convert temporary insurance into something more permanent.

Now, though, the life assurance industry is becoming increasingly inflation-conscious in this area of non-profit business—and not before time. A small but growing number of companies offer cover which allows the policyholder to increase his sum assured without further evidence of health, by including this as an option in the policy.

Usually there is a five-year term, after which the policy can be renewed or converted and the sum assured can be increased in line with inflation over the period. This is a step

in the right direction, but further steps are needed.

What happens if you die a couple of months before the cover runs out? With an inflation rate of 15 per cent the value of your original sum assured can be virtually halved in five years. A 10 per cent inflation rate over seven years or a 7 per cent rate for 10 years has the same effect.

A handful of life offices have, however, brought out policies where the sum assured can be increased each year without further evidence of health—and they have proved popular. Legal & General, which introduced a five-year term policy on this basis, reports that nearly three-quarters of its policyholders go for this particular option each year. Similarly, Skandia Life, which has a whole-life policy offering this facility reports a 60 per cent take-up.

Other companies have brought out their own versions of policies which allow the sum assured to increase annually, though not necessarily in line with inflation. For example,

Guardian Royal Exchange has a nine-year term policy where the sum assured rises by 12.5 per cent each year (with a corresponding rise of 10 per cent in the premium), which means that the sum assured doubles throughout the term of the policy.

The Equitable policy works the other way round, in that you pay a flat premium throughout the term but the sum assured increases at intervals selected at the outset. For example, you take out a term policy for a sum assured of £10,000 which increases to £20,000 after five years and then to £50,000 after 20 years.

This policy has proved popular, even though it lacks flexibility in that you have to select the amount and timing of the increases when you take out the policy. Equitable Life argues that this is a safer approach for the life assurance company.

Where the policyholder can increase his sum assured during the term, a life office might

find that less healthy individuals take full advantage of the facilities offered, while those who are as fit as a fiddle are not so keen—a situation which would lead to the life office paying out more claims.

So far little has been done in the way of extending these facilities to family income benefit policies. These run along the same lines as term assurance, except that the benefits are paid out as annual income rather than as a lump sum.

But that change should come. Non-profit policies with fixed flat rate premiums throughout the term have little appeal in the face of inflation. If the present trend continues—with more and more companies offering policies where the sum assured can be adjusted not only for changing circumstances but also for inflation—they will become a thing of the past, as indeed they should be.

Sylvia Morris

A wrath terrible to see...

soup as far as the other directors of Scottish Imp were concerned. After an extraordinarily testy board meeting Sir Harry was forced to resign his chairmanship.

The trouble was that Sir Too Noa U had lost face when his bid was capped by Scottish Imp and this was something that could not be allowed. Having therefore travelled to England specifically to unseat Sir Harry and succeeded in that purpose, he had himself rowed down the Thames to Fool's Wharf in a dragon boat propelled by out of work Chinese waiters.

Allighing triumphantly, he kissed the ground of the City and commented: "Levenge is sweet. And sour, also." The other directors of Scottish Imp were so impressed and shaken that they appointed him chairman.

However, Sir Harry was

fighting back. One of the last things he had done before vacating the chair was to appoint his crony Lord Triton of Cricklewood, also chairman of Great Rockall, to join him on that august body. And now Lord Triton's fortune hung in the balance as Sir Too Noa U contemplated both his navel and what he was going to do with his new acquisition.

Meanwhile, he also contemplated what fiendish punishment would be meted out on the village of Sticklepath for their less than total support for his original bid. The community relied on his goodwill, as the ultimate controller of the fortunes of the Great Rockall and Hongkong Mining Company which was gulping the ore out of the sludge of the Great Grimpen Mire at that very moment.

When he had heard of the disloyalty of the village to his just and noble cause his wrath had been terrible to see. He had ground his teeth and turned quite pale. Sleeping in his house, the cottagers of Sticklepath never dreamt what misfortunes might befall them at the hands of Sir Too Noa U in the none too distant future.

Francis Kinsman

Arbuthnot Government Securities Trust Limited

Investment Portfolio of Gilts

Directors' Announcement

30th January 1981

66 The Directors believe that interest rates will continue to fall substantially in the company's current year. This should prove to be beneficial for Gilt Edged Securities and thus the company's portfolio of investments. 99

Dividend declared 30th January 1981.

The Directors are pleased to declare a second quarterly interim dividend of 3.19p per share to be paid on 15th April 1981, which was quoted ex-dividend on Monday, 2nd February 1981. For the year to 31st July 1981 the Board intend to pay two further quarterly dividends to make a total for the year of 12.76p per share.

15.26%

Estimated Gross Dividend Yield at the price on 30th January 1981 which is based on the formula as laid down in the company's prospectus.

Valuation as at 30th January 1981, the date of the Directors' meeting, offer price 83.6p per share.

Funds now exceed £25 million.

The income share holders receive gross dividends in cash (except to Jersey residents) paid quarterly, and the Capital share holders a scrip issue of equal value.

Capital shares may not be held by residents of the United Kingdom or Jersey.

Allen Harvey & Ross Investment Management Limited act as investment advisers.

For further information regarding this company, write to: Sir David Scott-Barrett, K.B.E., M.C., Arbuthnot Securities Limited, 37 Queen Street, London EC4R 1BY. Tel: 01-236 5281 Ext. 281.

Please send me a copy of the company's prospectus (on the terms of which alone application for shares will be considered) together with the latest accounts.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

ARBUTHNOT

Issued by Arbuthnot Securities Limited (Licensed Dealers in Securities)

Insurance for garden plants

I have recently had my garden landscaped and would like to insure the plants against vandalism. My present insurers do not provide this kind of cover, nor can they suggest who might provide it. Do you know of a company which deals in this type of risk? (EJW, Birkenhead).

Unfortunately, it is likely to be very difficult to get this insurance, mainly because it is only those garden owners most at risk who would choose to have such insurance. Insurers would be unable to get a wide spread of business and there would be a fairly high claims ratio in the case of those gardens insured.

A good firm of insurance brokers in your area might be able to arrange the insurance at Lloyd's, but, almost certainly, you would be expected to bear a high excess uninsured.

You might find it very much easier to insure against "fire risks"—in other words, the damage caused by fire engines and firemen in the event of the house catching fire. Widespread there may be a greater chance of your garden being ruined by vandals than other gardens, the chances of a fire are much the same and so there is unlikely to be the same reluctance on the part of insurers.

When I moved to work in London I sold my home and bought a tiny flat in London with a view to finding a country cottage for weekends and ultimate retirement. I bought the flat in April, 1970, declaring it as my principal residence and my weekend/retirement cottage in December, 1970. In November, 1973, I sold the flat and notified the Inspector of Taxes that the cottage was now my principal residence.

Could you please explain how I will be affected by capital gains tax when I come to sell the cottage, which has been modernized and enlarged in the meantime? (JEW, Hampshire.)

We assume that your cottage has been the only residence



Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

that you have owned since November, 1973, and that throughout that period you have occupied it yourself. On this basis, the exempt part of any capital gain arising on your selling the cottage will be determined by the formula:

Period of occupation as main residence

Total period of ownership

X Overall capital gain

Provided that the balance of your capital gain does not exceed £3,000 then tax will be payable only if you have other capital gains during the year of disposal.

Difficulties might have arisen if you had not given notice that your cottage became your principal residence in 1973, since the Inland Revenue might then have claimed that your London address is your main residence, even though you do not own the property. It would have been difficult to counter this argument if you had not in fact spent a great deal of time at the property, so it is as well that you have concluded the matter by giving notice within the two year period permitted by the legislation.

Any reader who is in a similar position, but who has not made the election for a particular property to be treated as his main residence, should consider doing so (see the free

Inland Revenue Booklet CGTR, pages 30-31, on this). There has also recently been a case decided by the High Court on a related point (see Frost & Feltham—The Times Law Report, November 25, 1980).

I am a trustee of an accumulation trust set up in 1963 from the estate of a grandparent for her daughter's four children. The beneficiaries will become absolutely entitled when the daughter turns 21 years. In June 1981 and a deemed disposal will take place as a result, incurring a capital gains tax liability on the assets which consist of freehold properties (all acquired prior to 1965).

The tax will have to be paid either by the sale of trust property or the beneficiaries or a combination of both. The option of eight annual instalments at a rate of 12 per cent interest (at present) offers a method of spreading the tax burden but without any tax relief, is only a marginally more attractive alternative to paying the tax as soon as possible.

Is it possible to make use of the "roll-over-relief" as suggested in Bloch & Godfrey's article "CGT makes capital transfers easier" (August 8, 1980), whereby the gain on vesting is taken over by the beneficiaries? (ACK, Middles).

It is possible for an individual to transfer an asset to another United Kingdom resident individual at the capital gains base cost. In this way the gain is effectively "rolled over" until the recipient disposes of the asset. However, the relevant legislation (section 79 Finance Act 1980) only applies to disposals by individuals, and disposals by trustees do not qualify.

A similar relief under Section 126 Capital Gains Tax Act is available to trustees, but this only applies where the assets being transferred consist either of business assets or shares in a family trading company in which the trustees hold at least 25 per cent of the equity.

Rentokil

Preliminary Announcement

	1980	1979
	£000	£000
Group turnover	82,100	73,207
Group profit before tax	12,755	13,022
Historic Current cost	9,422	10,250
Group profit after tax	7,300	6,913
Historic Current cost	3,969	4,139
Earnings per share: Historic	7.76p	7.29p
Current cost	4.20p	4.36p
Dividends		
Interim paid November 1980		
(9.5% with tax credit of 4.07%)	13.570%	12.143%
Final proposed payable 6th May 1981 (16% with tax credit of 6.857%)	22.857%	20.000%
	36.427%	32.143%

These figures exclude exchange differences (debts) of £1,269,000 (1979 £1,194,000) on translation into sterling of overseas net assets. Such differences have been taken direct to reserves.

Share register struck for dividend 3rd April, report and accounts to shareholders 13th April, annual general meeting 6th May at Felcourt, East Grinstead, West Sussex.

Rentokil Group Limited

Stock markets

Heavy selling reflects doubts over economy

An air of uncertainty descended on the market yesterday as it patiently awaited next Tuesday's Budget.

Heavy selling of leading Industrials again worried dealers, who had been expecting a quiet time ahead of the Chancellor's speech. But investors appeared shaken by the Treasury's view that the recession had not bottomed out and Mr. Edward Du Cane's outspoken attack on the Government's economic policy. Sentiment was not helped by the request from the CBI to plough £15,000m into industry in order to refuel the economy—a request that many in the market regarded as futile.

Banks were another sector to come under pressure, after comment that a windfall tax was almost certain to be introduced. Reports of large lines of stock overhauling the market were discounted out of hand by many jobbers, but even they could not conceal their fears about the increased selling after hours. The FT index, which opened 5.1 down, closed at its low for the day, 7.1 lower at 489.1.

Government securities remained steadier as prices fluctuated within narrow limits. Turnover was described as thin, with investors unwilling to make their next move until after the Budget. In longs, falls of £1 to £1 were not uncommon, while at the shorter end losses ranged to about £1.

Heavy selling of blue chips featured in the hours, with jobbers anxious to keep their books as light as possible ahead of the weekend. Therefore, most issues were marked

sharply lower. ICI fell 2p to 250p, Unilever 5p to 483p, Fisons 3p to 133p, Glaxo 4p to 286p, Beecham 2p to 163p, Hawker Siddeley 4p to 286p, Bowater 6p to 205p and GKN

Despite falling profits in the year ending this month, Hargreaves Group, a fuel distributor with interests in buildings, construction and transport with similarities to AAH and Cavendish, has attracted at least two brokers. Hargreaves has a stake in coal mining at Hamaker, Virginia, and there is gossip of developments in energy. The shares are up 7p to 48p in two days, but assets are 73p a share and the yield is 12 per cent.

3p to 133p, while Dunlop at 61p and Courtauld at 61p both closed 2p lower.

Distillers, the subject of overnight comment, ended steady at 186p. Shares of Lockwood Foods rose 4p to 34p, before being suspended, as the company called in the receiver and shares of Lowland Drapery

fell 1p to 154p. Insurance shares also met further selling, despite the weaker pound, as Commercial Union slipped 3p to 154p.

General Accident 8p to 314p, FIRE 8p to 334p, and Royal 7p to 373p. But favourable comment lifted London United Investments 18p to 205p.

Profit-taking also left insurance brokers weaker after their recent strong run. Minet Holdings eased 3p to 102p, Sedgwick 2p to 131p, C.E. Heath 5p to 223p, and Willis Faber a similar amount at 303p.

Among companies reporting, Rentokil dipped 1p to 150p, after 140p, after the profits standstill, while lower profits lowered Aul & Wiborg 3p to 32p, 1 Keywood Williams 3p to 25p, and Greenfield Leisure 2p to 40p.

Recent trading statements added 3p to W. N. Sharpe at 276p, and 5p to Derek Crouch at 168p, while Campari International rallied 2p to 48p and Staffordshire Pottery 5p to 53p.

Political pressure designed to urge the seabed for a rail link gave Channel Tunnel a 4p fillip at 175p, with selective buying boosting Roberts Adlard 10p to 113p, Flight Refuelling

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Imperial Group: The dividend for the year is unchanged at 7.25p a share after a final payment of 4.50p a share.

Oils ended the day generally weaker, but dealers denied that the adjustment in Petroleum Reserve Tax had made any adverse impact. BP and Shell both lost 2p, ahead of figures next week, at 412p and 418p respectively, while Ultramar retreated 5p to 498p. Profit-taking also accounted for a 25p fall in Lasso at 622p and a 10p fall in Tricent at 294p.

Among second-liners, IC Gas dipped 10p to 220p, Premier 4p to 398p. Equity turnover on March 5 was £121.348m (19,813 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: Cons Gold, ICI, De La Rue, GEC, Marks & Spencer, Royal Insurance, RTZ, Ultramar, Lasso, S. & W. Berisford, GKN, Lanchester Industries, Avana Group and De Beers.

Traded Options: Dealers saw only moderate support, with 747 contracts completed, of which Lombar 97 and ICI 95.

Traditional options saw calls made on the last day of the account for Debenhams on 7p, Aldi Dist Prods on 5p, and puts in Geo Wimpey on 7.1p.

Restoration of the dividend will be considered in the light of trading conditions, and the group's performance. Higher interest charges were a major cost to the group last year, although borrowings are little changed. Extraordinary items of £165,000 included one closure since the July year end.

Looking ahead, Mr. Yentob expects difficult trading conditions to continue. "We think things are going to be a bit rough, but we're taking action to counter it," he said. "We won't keep any businesses open just for the sake of keeping them open."

The difficult trading conditions in the carpet industry are reflected in the interim results of Blackwood, Morton & Sons (Holdings), the Scottish manufacturer. For the half year to December 31 the company lost £13.4m, almost three times the comparable 1979 loss of £4.79m. Sales too have fallen from £10.9m to £8.87m, reflecting an even greater fall in real terms. There is no interim dividend.

After tax credits of £57,000 and extraordinary debits of £253,400, the losses attributable to shareholders are £1.54m for the first half. This makes losses a share of 16.1p. Net assets a share are now round 80p compared with 100p in the last balance sheet.

The interim statement says that first-half home market sales were hit by recession and unemployment.

Mr. David Greenfield, a managing director of Greenfield Leisure, heating and lighting, were now taking effect. "Stocks have been reduced, bank borrowings are coming down, margins are being restored and staff numbers are being stabilized."

In addition, Greenfield is hoping to complete some property transactions which will augment profits substantially in the current year. It is opening one shop and closing another.

Despite a maintained final dividend of 1.87p gross, which gives a same again total of 3.1p, the board warned shareholders that the first half would be poor. However, the performance should improve with a boost in tourist trade.

MAIZE—United States—French: March, 215.00; three months, 214.75; six months, 214.50; nine months, 214.25; one year, 214.00. (All prices in £/t.)

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Traditional options saw calls made on the last day of the account for Debenhams on 7p, Aldi Dist Prods on 5p, and puts in Geo Wimpey on 7.1p.

Restoration of the dividend will be considered in the light of trading conditions, and the group's performance. Higher interest charges were a major cost to the group last year, although borrowings are little changed. Extraordinary items of £165,000 included one closure since the July year end.

Looking ahead, Mr. Yentob expects difficult trading conditions to continue. "We think things are going to be a bit rough, but we're taking action to counter it," he said. "We won't keep any businesses open just for the sake of keeping them open."

The difficult trading conditions in the carpet industry are reflected in the interim results of Blackwood, Morton & Sons (Holdings), the Scottish manufacturer. For the half year to December 31 the company lost £13.4m, almost three times the comparable 1979 loss of £4.79m. Sales too have fallen from £10.9m to £8.87m, reflecting an even greater fall in real terms. There is no interim dividend.

After tax credits of £57,000 and extraordinary debits of £253,400, the losses attributable to shareholders are £1.54m for the first half. This makes losses a share of 16.1p. Net assets a share are now round 80p compared with 100p in the last balance sheet.

The interim statement says that first-half home market sales were hit by recession and unemployment.

Mr. David Greenfield, a managing director of Greenfield Leisure, heating and lighting, were now taking effect. "Stocks have been reduced, bank borrowings are coming down, margins are being restored and staff numbers are being stabilized."

In addition, Greenfield is hoping to complete some property transactions which will augment profits substantially in the current year. It is opening one shop and closing another.

Despite a maintained final dividend of 1.87p gross, which gives a same again total of 3.1p, the board warned shareholders that the first half would be poor. However, the performance should improve with a boost in tourist trade.

MAIZE—United States—French: March, 215.00; three months, 214.75; six months, 214.50; nine months, 214.25; one year, 214.00. (All prices in £/t.)

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General Accident 8p to 314p, FIRE 8p to 334p, and Royal 7p to 373p. But favourable comment lifted London United Investments 18p to 205p.

Profit-taking also left insurance brokers weaker after their recent strong run. Minet Holdings eased 3p to 102p, Sedgwick 2p to 131p, C.E. Heath 5p to 223p, and Willis Faber a similar amount at 303p.

Among companies reporting, Rentokil dipped 1p to 150p, after 140p, after the profits standstill, while lower profits lowered Aul & Wiborg 3p to 32p, 1 Keywood Williams 3p to 25p, and Greenfield Leisure 2p to 40p.

Recent trading statements added 3p to W. N. Sharpe at 276p, and 5p to Derek Crouch at 168p, while Campari International rallied 2p to 48p and Staffordshire Pottery 5p to 53p.

Political pressure designed to urge the seabed for a rail link gave Channel Tunnel a 4p fillip at 175p, with selective buying boosting Roberts Adlard 10p to 113p, Flight Refuelling

5p to 313p, E. Fogarty 6p to 170p, Sidaw 7p to 135p, and Travis & Arnold 7p to 152p. But profit-taking clipped 10p from Gordon & Gotch at 135p, while adverse comment lowered De La Rue 10p to 630p.

Imperial Group: The dividend for the year is unchanged at 7.25p a share after a final payment of 4.50p a share.

Oils ended the day generally weaker, but dealers denied that the adjustment in Petroleum Reserve Tax had made any adverse impact. BP and Shell both lost 2p, ahead of figures next week, at 412p and 418p respectively, while Ultramar retreated 5p to 498p. Profit-taking also accounted for a 25p fall in Lasso at 622p and a 10p fall in Tricent at 294p.

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Nervous selling

* Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

<p>• Ex dividend, a Kxall, b Forecast dividend, c Corporate price, d Interim payment passed, f Price at suspension lifted and e sold exclusive a special payment, h Shareholder's interest, g Forecast figure, i Forecast earnings, j Capital distribution, r Excludes, s Ex script or bid script, Tax free, y Price at late dealings, z Significant data.</p>	<p>Closing 1983 1982 1981 1980 1979 1978 1977 1976 1975 1974 1973 1972 1971 1970 1969 1968 1967 1966 1965 1964 1963 1962 1961 1960 1959 1958 1957 1956 1955 1954 1953 1952 1951 1950 1949 1948 1947 1946 1945 1944 1943 1942 1941 1940 1939 1938 1937 1936 1935 1934 1933 1932 1931 1930 1929 1928 1927 1926 1925 1924 1923 1922 1921 1920 1919 1918 1917 1916 1915 1914 1913 1912 1911 1910 1909 1908 1907 1906 1905 1904 1903 1902 1901 1900 1899 1898 1897 1896 1895 1894 1893 1892 1891 1890 1889 1888 1887 1886 1885 1884 1883 1882 1881 1880 1879 1878 1877 1876 1875 1874 1873 1872 1871 1870 1869 1868 1867 1866 1865 1864 1863 1862 1861 1860 1859 1858 1857 1856 1855 1854 1853 1852 1851 1850 1849 1848 1847 1846 1845 1844 1843 1842 1841 1840 1839 1838 1837 1836 1835 1834 1833 1832 1831 1830 1829 1828 1827 1826 1825 1824 1823 1822 1821 1820 1819 1818 1817 1816 1815 1814 1813 1812 1811 1810 1809 1808 1807 1806 1805 1804 1803 1802 1801 1800 1799 1798 1797 1796 1795 1794 1793 1792 1791 1790 1789 1788 1787 1786 1785 1784 1783 1782 1781 1780 1779 1778 1777 1776 1775 1774 1773 1772 1771 1770 1769 1768 1767 1766 1765 1764 1763 1762 1761 1760 1759 1758 1757 1756 1755 1754 1753 1752 1751 1750 1749 1748 1747 1746 1745 1744 1743 1742 1741 1740 1739 1738 1737 1736 1735 1734 1733 1732 1731 1730 1729 1728 1727 1726 1725 1724 1723 1722 1721 1720 1719 1718 1717 1716 1715 1714 1713 1712 1711 1710 1709 1708 1707 1706 1705 1704 1703 1702 1701 1700 1699 1698 1697 1696 1695 1694 1693 1692 1691 1690 1689 1688 1687 1686 1685 1684 1683 1682 1681 1680 1679 1678 1677 1676 1675 1674 1673 1672 1671 1670 1669 1668 1667 1666 1665 1664 1663 1662 1661 1660 1659 1658 1657 1656 1655 1654 1653 1652 1651 1650 1649 1648 1647 1646 1645 1644 1643 1642 1641 1640 1639 1638 1637 1636 1635 1634 1633 1632 1631 1630 1629 1628 1627 1626 1625 1624 1623 1622 1621 1620 1619 1618 1617 1616 1615 1614 1613 1612 1611 1610 1609 1608 1607 1606 1605 1604 1603 1602 1601 1600 1599 1598 1597 1596 1595 1594 1593 1592 1591 1590 1589 1588 1587 1586 1585 1584 1583 1582 1581 1580 1579 1578 1577 1576 1575 1574 1573 1572 1571 1570 1569 1568 1567 1566 1565 1564 1563 1562 1561 1560 1559 1558 1557 1556 1555 1554 1553 1552 1551 1550 1549 1548 1547 1546 1545 1544 1543 1542 1541 1540 1539 1538 1537 1536 1535 1534 1533 1532 1531 1530 1529 1528 1527 1526 1525 1524 1523 1522 1521 1520 1519 1518 1517 1516 1515 1514 1513 1512 1511 1510 1509 1508 1507 1506 1505 1504 1503 1502 1501 1500 1499 1498 1497 1496 1495 1494 1493 1492 1491 1490 1489 1488 1487 1486 1485 1484 1483 1482 1481 1480 1479 1478 1477 1476 1475 1474 1473 1472 1471 1470 1469 1468 1467 1466 1465 1464 1463 1462 1461 1460 1459 1458 1457 1456 1455 1454 1453 1452 1451 1450 1449 1448 1447 1446 1445 1444 1443 1442 1441 1440 1439 1438 1437 1436 1435 1434 1433 1432 1431 1430 1429 1428 1427 1426 1425 1424 1423 1422 1421 1420 1419 1418 1417 1416 1415 1414 1413 1412 1411 1410 1409 1408 1407 1406 1405 1404 1403 1402 1401 1400 1399 1398 1397 1396 1395 1394 1393 1392 1391 1390 1389 1388 1387 1386 1385 1384 1383 1382 1381 1380 1379 1378 1377 1376 1375 1374 1373 1372 1371 1370 1369 1368 1367 1366 1365 1364 1363 1362 1361 1360 1359 1358 1357 1356 1355 1354 1353 1352 1351 1350 1349 1348 1347 1346 1345 1344 1343 1342 1341 1340 1339 1338 1337 1336 1335 1334 1333 1332 1331 1330 1329 1328 1327 1326 1325 1324 1323 1322 1321 1320 1319</p>
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Craig Hill Rd, Thorsley, Bradford, BD10 0AA

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing



The recent revival of interest in lacquered furniture hardly compares with the crazes in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when there was such enthusiasm for the Oriental style that even perfectly good walnut was covered up with paint. But the fact that a shop has opened which deals only in lacquer does suggest it is not just a fleeting fashion.

It is the English Lacquer Shop at 8 Marchmont Street, London WC1 and it is the result of the combined talents of a team headed by Nina and Hamish Colyear Walker with cabinet maker Simon Wood and artist Guy Bedford, who is one of the few British craftsmen specializing in lacquer.

The technique requires a great deal of time and patience. There are, of course, cheap versions, but each piece finished by Guy Bedford has between 12 and 18 layers of colour, giving it a richness and depth which could never be achieved by a quick spray. It is then decorated and finally polished or given a polyurethane finish to protect it from damage.

His particular forte is the Chinoiserie style of decoration—there is a four-fold screen, for instance, in scarlet lacquer with a design copied from an English eighteenth century screen, a pair of Queen Anne style chairs in black with gold decoration and yellow silk seats, a handsome pedestal desk of impressively directorial proportions.

Right: coffee table in grey-blue lacquer with a delicate Oriental design of apple blossom in antique gold. £340 from The English Lacquer Shop, 8 Marchmont Street, London, WC1.

A north/south battle has been joined which makes the Wars of the Roses look like a game of happy families. It has already been going on for some time and this week two more combat positions were established—one in Croydon and one in Leamington Spa. The contenders for the printed or minted crowns in your pocket are Sainsbury's and Asda, both throwing up superstores as fast as they can sign cheques with one hand and twist the arm of the local authority with the other.

Like them or not—and research has shown that any adverse effect is on the medium-sized supermarket rather than the specialist high street shop—superstores are here to stay. That is, stores with a minimum of 25,000 sq feet of selling space on one floor, with a large car park next to it. The total space is something like an Olympic rugby pitch.

Asda opened their first such store in Leeds in 1965 and they have since built 39 more, concentrating in the North, from Aberdeen to Nottingham. Their presence in the South had not been strongly felt until they cocked a cheeky snook at Sainsbury's last year by opening at Park Royal, and by 1985 they plan 20 more superstores in the South and 10 in London and the South-east.

We don't deal in short-term snailmail offers, but in the same discounts throughout the country," says Peter Firmston-



Above: a choice of accessories to make from the Home Sew Pack by Dorma, containing 1 square metre of fabric to match their Romany duvet set. The pack is available from Selfridges for £2.50, plus £1.20 p & p

I have always assumed that cutting up the curtains to make lampshades and cushion covers was one of those art economies something akin to knitting your own garden gnome. It therefore came as something of a surprise to learn that many people have been buying extra sheets to make furnishings to match their bedding.

So much so that Dorma have introduced special sewing packs to coordinate with three of their duvet designs. From these you can make a breakfast set, padded picture and mirror frame, cosmetic bag and jewelry purse, frilled cushion, hankie lampshade and pleated lampshade and an overcloth to top a plain, floor-length table-cover. You are also told how to make a matching pin cushion and sewing roll.

Of course you don't have to stick to the ideas given, and if you want to use the fabric to cover a wastepaper basket or even make a sarong, that is up to you. Your only limitation is the fact that each pack contains 1 sq metre—larger pieces might possibly result in people making their own duvet covers, which is not at all what Dorma intend.

The patterns available in these Home Sew Packs are

Roller blinds and making duvets, bedcovers and bed bases. You can also learn the basics of quilting, English and Italian, and there is a chapter on re-covering an old-down. Each subject is well illustrated with step-by-step diagrams.

Experts in any field often know so much about their subject they assume far too much understanding on the part of their students. The results can be daunting. But Dorothy Gates combines practical experience gained from years in the soft furnishings and upholstery business with a gift for teaching—she is also an adult education lecturer—and she has an enviable capacity for making the complicated seem not only simple, but worth attempting even by a beginner.

The book is available in local bookshops now and will be in branches of W. H. Smith in April. If you have any difficulty finding it, write to Forbes Publications Limited, Hartree House, Queensway, London W2 4SH.

Those who enjoy decorative needlework and would like to attempt patchwork may like to know that they need not struggle with making out their own shapes with templates, paper, pencil and scissors. Packs of machine-cut shapes are available which will ensure accuracy—one of the main requirements of perfect patchwork.

Realizing that many people were put off attempting patchwork simply because of the tediousness of making paper shapes, Hilary Warren began by producing sheets of basic 1½ inch hexagons. These proved so popular that she has now introduced two other shapes, a 2 inch diamond and a 3 inch chain shell.

Each sheet includes complimentary shapes for borders and covers—half, hexagons, diamonds and triangles in the hexagon pack, half and quarter diamonds and half chain shells in the other two. Each pack contains instructions and 25 sheets of shapes, which are enough for more than a square metre of patchwork. Instruction diagrams show how the paper shapes are stitched to the fabric, and removed when the work is complete.

The packs are available at £4 each, post free, from Patchwork Papers, 14 Dumdall Close, Havling Island, Hants, PO11 9DX.

Those who have tried and failed to find craftsmen who can repair rush-seated chairs will be encouraged to know that a company in Suffolk runs a repair service which includes collection and delivery throughout the country.

George Sneed, who has been making furniture for 20 years, discovered the need for a re-seating service four years ago and now employs a team of outworkers specializing in rush and cane. They can deal with all types of chairs from antique to recent imports.

He uses traditional English and Continental rush patterns and always tries to match the style already on the chair. The standard rush seating uses 60 strands per foot and would cost around £20.50 for a seat 17 in x 15½ in. Antique chairs require a fine rush at up to 120 strands per foot, which of course costs more, and special modern rush at about 48 strands per foot is 10 per cent less than the standard charge.

There are four different patterns of cane at various prices according to the length

of time they take, and seagrass and fibrecord are also available. The collection and delivery charges are worked out according to distance—free within a few miles of Bungay, up to £9 for one chair and £5.50 for six in the West Country, Wales and Scotland. Some customers in the same area join forces to reduce carriage charges.

Delivery is approximately four weeks after collection, but this will vary sometimes so that collection and delivery in various areas can be coordinated to minimize charges. Brochures giving details of the charges, delivery zones and cane patterns are available from George Sneed woodwork, Bacon's Barn, St Michael, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 1NF, telephone, St Cross 282.

Below: two British-made men's moccasins in the Italian style. Top, Ludlow, bottom, Tiverton, both in black or brown leather, sizes 6 to 11, fittings E and G. £29.99, by Norvic from their stockists throughout the country by the end of March.

The two possessions in the house that make me passionately protective are books and pictures and while I know none of my friends would dream of half-inching my watercolours, it amazes me how many otherwise upright citizens have a little blank spot when it comes to returning books. (Memo to friend in Cheshire—I'm not getting at you, so don't waste postage returning the paperback Plof—I borrowed it anyway.)

If you have suffered from similar slights of mind, you may care to consider identifying your collection with book-plates, much used when books were hand scribed and also popular in Victorian days. A small Nottingham company has revived the idea, and is producing a range of twelve designs.

Drawn in black on white they have a look of old engravings—some in Victorian style, like the scroll-edged ships or the figure sitting in a heavily draped library, some in modern vein—a jester, a fisherman, an owl and a badger. There is a special children's design incorporating several small woodland animals.

All the plates are 3½ in x 2½ in, with adhesive backs and they are available with a blank space for you to fill in your name at £1.80 for a pack of 50, or overprinted with the name at £4.50 for 100.

All prices include n & p and brochures are available from Rockley Impressions, Rockley House, Rockley, Bedford, Northamptonshire NN22 0QP.



Above: Cuddly velour playsuit in blue, turquoise or pink cotton and nylon. Sizes 0-6 months, 6 to 12 months and 12 to 18 months, £5.99, from all Debenhams branches.

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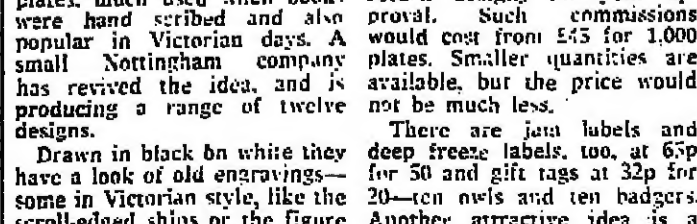
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Civil Service strike will disrupt air travel and affect ports, offices, courts and museums

By Craig Seton

A wide range of services which depend on the work of civil servants will be made more difficult or become impossible to obtain today because of the 24-hour strike by white-collar state employees.

Air travellers will be particularly affected, as there will be no flights in or out of Britain from the main airports.

Work in courts, social security offices, tax offices, driving test centres, ports, museums and art galleries, job centres and weather centres will be disrupted, though to what extent will depend on how many of the country's 530,000 civil servants obey the call to action.

There was doubt yesterday among several government departments that the disruption would be as widespread as the union involved believe, but certainly union members will be affected in crucial areas such as air traffic control, customs and excise, and immigration.

Civil servants at Buckingham Palace and other royal households have been given a dispensation from striking today. Services involving safety are unlikely to be affected, for instance, services for air rescue services and for shipping are likely to continue.

An official at the London Weather Centre said yesterday that the availability of other weather forecasts was uncertain. The Meteorological Office's headquarters at Bracknell was likely to issue them and they were likely to be read on radio.

Whether forecasts would appear on BBC Television scheduled to appear, the official said. In today's case that is Mr James Bacon.

The limited information avail-

able last night on the likely effects of the disruption is as follows:

Airports

The Civil Aviation Authority said there would be no flights in or out of the main British airports, including Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Prestwick, because air traffic controllers were likely to join the action.

All airlines in Britain and abroad had been advised to inform passengers due to fly today what arrangements to make.

Municipally owned airports, such as Luton, East Midlands and Bournemouth, employ their own air traffic controllers who will not be affected by the action. Some package holiday companies have said they will use such airports today and fly in controlled airspace until they pick up foreign radar.

Mr William McCaul, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, said yesterday: "We want to make it clear to everybody not to fly. It is going to be dangerous to fly on Monday and any airline which ignores our professional advice is endangering the lives of its passengers and they ought not to do it."

Customs staff are likely to join the action, but where necessary management staff will be on duty for passengers. The Home Office made it clear that immigration desks will be manned, if not by a full staff.

Ports

Ferries are expected to run normally, but there could be delays for passengers from the Continent because of the effects of the strike by customs and immigration staff.

Local government offices

The unions involved claim that all social security offices will be closed, together with jobcentres and unemployment benefit offices. The Government

departments concerned say they cannot predict the effect on local offices but accept that people who do not collect benefits by order book or cheque are likely to find offices closed.

The Department of Transport accepts that driving test centres and private motorists and for those taking heavy goods vehicle tests, may be affected, as examiners have been told to join the action.

Those who attend and find their tests cancelled will be given priority for another test without further payment of fees, but there will be no question of compensation.

The unions also claim that all tax offices and offices dealing with value-added tax will be closed, but the customs and excise staff say that VAT offices would remain open where possible.

Courts

The unions say that crown and county courts will be shut and that the Central Criminal Court and the High Courts of Justice in the Strand will be picketed. An official of the South-east circuit said yesterday that all crown court staff were on strike today, but that anybody due in court today should turn up. He expected that only one or two courts might not be able to open.

Museums and galleries

Museums and art galleries will be affected and the following will be closed today: Hayward Gallery, British Museum (including British Library reading rooms), Museum of Mankind, British Museum (Natural History), Commonwealth Institute, Geological Museum, National Portrait Gallery, RAF Museum, Science Museum, National Railway Museum at York, Victoria and Albert Museum and the Museum of Childhood.

The Tower of London will also be closed. Its 38 Yeomen of the Guard (Beefeaters) are expected to be on picket duty.

Mr Nott promises defence review

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

A review later this year of the "crucial questions" affecting Britain's defence policy was promised yesterday by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence. He was confident that answers could be found.

"I am looking right across the board to see where we can do the job more effectively without spending more money. I wholly agree with the Services that we must never again get ourselves into a penny-pinching situation that we are in at the moment," he said on the independent television programme, *Weekend World*.

Both the eastern Atlantic and West Germany are clearly areas in which Mr Nott considers a redeployment of resources could yield a better value for money.

While discounting suggestions that he might be planning to "sink the Royal Navy," he hinted that a more efficient concentration of effort might be necessary in countering the Soviet submarine threat in the Atlantic.

Similarly there could be ways in which the British Army of the Rhine could do more effective job without any increase in the defence budget

beyond the 3 per cent annual rise demanded by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"I think we have to have a narrower range of equipment, more of it but a narrower range," Mr Nott said. That was perhaps the most explicit indication of the changes that might be under consideration.

Questioned about Britain's contribution to an American-led deployment of the Force (RDF), operating on behalf of the West, Mr Nott said that press speculation had exaggerated the Prime Minister's pledge in her New York speech last week.

There had never been any question of Britain deploying large forces outside the NATO area. Both the Americans and the British government continued to see their contribution to NATO in Europe as their first commitment.

Any help which Britain might provide for an operation to protect Western interests further afield would be in conjunction with that of the other allies and need not be expensive.

Mr Nott said that his first priority on becoming the Secretary of State for Defence two months ago had been to deal with the ministry's cash

difficulties. His second had been to look at the Trident strategic missile issue. The inference was that he now wants to investigate the distribution of defence resources in general.

Later this week Mr Nott leaves for Washington where NATO priorities are expected to figure most prominently in talks with Mr Caspar Weinberger, who is also settling into his new job as Defence Secretary.

Next Mr Nott attends his first meeting of NATO's nuclear planning group, and then a six-monthly gathering of NATO defence ministers in Brussels.

His review of British priorities in the summer will therefore take place only after he has consulted the allies.

Full support for the "neutron" nuclear weapon to make the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's "defensive strategy more credible" is given in an article today by Admiral Robert Fallick, chairman of the military committee (our Political Editor writes).

Writing in *Labour and Trades Union Press Service* he says the argument that "reduced blast weapons" would lower the nuclear threshold is illogical.

From the grass roots: Anti-cruise missile campaign fights apathy

How Newbury learnt to live with the bomb

By Ian Bradley

Sandwiched between *The Nationwide Book of British Trees* and *The Writers' and Artists' Year Book* in the Newbury branch of W. H. Smith are half a dozen copies of the Government's booklet, *Protect and Survive*, and *Domestic Nuclear Shelters*.

The booklets should have a more ready market there than in most towns. Greenham Common, on the edge of Newbury, will become, in 1983, the first site in Europe for cruise missiles. It is likely to be one of the first targets for attack in a nuclear war.

In last September's Operation Square Leg exercise, which simulated a big nuclear attack on Britain, Newbury was assumed to have been destroyed by a two-megaton warhead.

Last month the district council announced that it was looking for a building near the town to use as a control centre in the event of a nuclear attack. Mr Brian Thetford, the chief

executive, was quoted in the local newspaper as saying that the council had rejected the siting of the control centre under the new civic building in the town, because "operating under a pile of rubble did not make sense".

Even without Greenham Common, Newbury would be a likely target. The Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, the United States Air Force base at Welford, and the Royal Ordnance Factory at Burghfield are all close.

Those involved in the Newbury Campaign Against Cruise Missiles realise that the high level of atomic weaponry in the area makes their task more difficult. Residents have become resigned to being killed in the event of a nuclear war. They are not particularly bothered about the prospect of housing yet another weapon of destruction in their back gardens.

Mrs Carol Sambrook, secretary of the campaign, says that the main concern expressed to

Mr Francis Pym, the former Secretary of State for Defence, when he visited Newbury last summer, was whether flights to and from the Greenham Common base would interfere with the races and affect farm animals.

The campaign was started on June 17 last year, the day that the sites were chosen for Britain's share of the 454 cruise missiles that will be deployed around Western Europe. So far, it has only 82 paid up members and another 75 interested supporters. However, last month it collected 1,000 signatures to a petition calling for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Mrs Joan Ruddock, the campaign's chairman and a member of the national executive of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, is particularly keen to get across the argument that cruise missiles cannot be seen simply as a deterrent to a Soviet attack but rather represent a strike force which could begin a limited nuclear war in Europe.

Last week she returned from a tour of the United States to coincide with the Prime Minister's visit. She said: "I really went to tell them that what is a limited war for them means 40 million dead for us in Britain, and we feel we are already being prepared for a nuclear war by our Government."

The campaigners are not optimistic about their chances of success. They recognize that the decision to refuse cruise missiles can be taken at a national level only.

They also feel that there are strong local pressures working against them. Mrs Ruddock says that when she went to talk at a local comprehensive school recently the children of parents who worked at Aldermaston were kept away and she was not allowed to distribute any literature.

Undaunted, the campaigners intend to leaflet every household in the town. They also hope to enlist the active support of 12 local clergymen.

Foot attack on 'menace' in Thatcher policies

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

In vehement attacks on the Government, Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, has described Mrs Margaret Thatcher as a national and international menace and said that if the Government is permitted to continue its present course "the ravages to be inflicted upon our country hardly bear reckoning at all".

He predicted that the Budget tomorrow would underline the mounting crisis. Mr Foot sought in two speeches at the weekend to refocus Labour's animosities away from internal divisions and the Social Democrats and to return to attacking the national enemy. Mrs Thatcher's cold war rhetoric provided him with ammunition.

Addressing a rally in Brighton on Saturday, Mr Foot scoffed that Mrs Thatcher had turned her suburban instincts to foreign policy, and that made her a "national and international menace".

"She makes up policy as she goes along, often in the middle of a television interview, to the dismay of our friends throughout the world and the confusion of her own foreign office and ministry of defence," he said.

Mrs Thatcher "was prepared to try her own hand with every preference given to President Reagan has put forward during her visit to Washington. He criticised her for not trying to restrain United States policy toward El Salvador and lampooned her for supporting the neutron bomb, noting that she preferred to call it a bomb."

She urged the Americans to respond coldly to President Brezhnev's proposals for a summit meeting, he said: "she apparently favours go-slow diplomacy combined with an even hotter arms race".

But the greatest condemnation of the Government's foreign policy was its lack of interest in disarmament.

Speaking yesterday at the Greater London Labour Party conference he said that even if the Government followed the proposal of the Confederation of British Industry for recovery



Mr Michael Foot on the offensive at the Greater London Labour Party conference yesterday.

the country would get back in three years time only to the level of unemployment obtaining today.

That is the measure of the crisis, partly an international crisis, partly a crisis of capitalism all over the world, partly a crisis induced and intensified in an insane degree by this Government, and partly a complete failure of imagination about the scale of the crisis that now faces the Western world in general.

He said that the Conservative government must be brought to an end "as speedily as the united energies of the Labour movement can achieve it".

Mr Foot derided the Social Democrats in one short passage. But he did not avail himself of the latest opinion poll which showed the Social Democrats behind Labour. It is the first such poll since the formation of the Council of Social Democracy.

The poll, conducted for *The Sunday Times* by Market Opinion Research International (MORI) was: Labour 35 per cent, Social Democrats 23, Liberal 13, and others 2. With Liberals standing

down the social democrats share rose to 30 per cent.

However, the result was prompted by a specific question. Only 8 per cent of the sample volunteered unprompted that they would vote Social Democratic, an indication of the immense ground in public awareness which the social democrats need to consolidate.

An indirect response to Mr Foot came in a speech by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary. He said that Mr Foot "threatens withdrawal from the EEC. He talks of ordering American military installations out of the country. He preaches the need for unilateral disarmament. That would be a sorry and shabby isolation against the best interests of Britain."

At the London conference Labour members were given a warning by Mr Ron Hayward, the party general secretary not to run away from explaining that they would deliberately increase rates if they gained control of the GLC in May. "Yes, rates will rise with Labour... because London needs to spend more money on itself to make

life worth living for Londoners."

Healey appeal: An outspoken attack on "unrepresentative cliques" in the Labour Party, and a call for the reestablishment of the party of Clement Attlee, Aneurin Bevan and Ernest Bevin was made by Mr Denis Healey, the deputy party leader, at Bridlington yesterday (Roald Karstam writes).

Mr Healey told delegates to the Yorkshire Regional Labour Party annual conference that when members should have been concentrating on fighting Thatcherism they had been forced to fight one another.

Never had a government lost the support of the people so soon after winning an election with such a big majority.

Yet even with the Confederation of British Industry in revolt and unemployment rising to three million Labour's lead was still in single figures.

"We all know why... a small minority of the party, temporarily entrenched in positions of power, has been trying to drag us away from that representative democracy on which the whole of our parliamentary system is based."

In brief

Ten men charged after sea chase

A tenth man has been charged in connection with the Sea Rover cross-Channel chase on Friday. Joseph Lawrence, painter and decorator, 40, of Barking, east London, appeared at Magistrates' Court, London, charged with possession of cannabis.

Nine men have been charged in Sussex with smuggling cannabis and they are due to appear in court at Newhaven today. Two other men were being questioned.

Malaysia ban

Malaysia will stop sending students to Britain in case the British Government takes action against Datuk Musa, Education Minister, said Kuala Lumpur yesterday. It are 17,000 Malaysian students in Britain.

Journalists dismissed

Nine members of the Nan Union of Journalists' voted at Mr Robert Maxwell's Oxbased Pergamon Press, I been dismissed two days after a starting an official strike pay and conditions.

Ox fossils on show

Fossil remains of the ox, the cave lion and straight-tusked elephant to be shown in a special exhibition at the Natural History Museum, London, as part of the R Westminster exhibition.

Meat lorries halted

Two container lorries frozen meat from Rosslare, the Irish Republic were held in a car park at Fingus, Dublin, yesterday while customs officers checked import documents.

Market disturbance

Five men and a woman charged with threatening behaviour after a disturbance between political groups in Brick Lane market, east London, yesterday.

Two die in air crash

Two people in a glider killed when it was in collision with a light aircraft near Cranwell, Lincolnshire, yesterday.

Trawler targets

Three Grimby trawlers, off for months because of fishing industry recession, been sold to the Ministry of Defence as weapon targets.

Karate victim

Mr Colin Palmer, aged 13, Ebor Way, Gloucester, a karate enthusiast whose opponent after an exchange of stomps on Saturday, said yesterday he wanted to give up sport.

Motoring writer killed

Mr Michael Frostick, chairman of the Guild of Motor Writers, and his wife, Doreen, have been killed in a motor accident near their home in South of France.

Bevin centenary

Mr George Foggan, director of the London office of the International Labour Organization, yesterday said that contrary to agency report published on Saturday, there was no question of ILO backing a boycott of unveiling of a plaque to Ernest Bevin today by Mr James Prosser, Secretary of State for Employment. He said that several officials of the ILO would present. Union leaders are expected to be present. It would involve creating a picket line at the Department of Employment.

Cross-Channel spree raises French spirits

By Robin Young

Despite grey weather, high winds and choppy seas some 50,000 day-trippers sailed forth from Dover and Folkestone at the weekend to stock up on drinks and cigarettes before tomorrow's Budget. In Boulogne delighted shopkeepers hailed the Budget as a second coming of Christmas.

With today's sailings in doubt because of the civil servants' strike, bookings on the ferries for Saturday were particularly heavy. P & O Normandy Ferries estimated that its sailings to Boulogne alone carried 15,000 day-return passengers.

One group of economically motivated men and women had taken their cars across for the day to make bulk purchases. They were systematically depleting the well-stocked wine shelves at the Auchan hypermarket outside Boulogne, with the help of Hugh Johnson's *Pocket Wine Book*.

At the Champion hypermarket, by Boulogne harbour, the rush of British customers was so great on Saturday that the store ran out of the capacious supermarket trolleys which the French call *caddies*.

None of the British shoppers expected the increase in the price of a bottle of spirits to be less than 50p tomorrow. Many

thought that wine would go up by 20p or more.

Many were buying more than their duty-free allowance, and they were willing to pay duty on the excess. A Maidstone woman, who said she was a regular cross-Channel shopper, claimed: "You can usually catch hold of a teetotaler or two on the coaches to take the extra through for you."

On the P & O six o'clock sailing from Boulogne there was a long queue for the duty-free shop all the way to Dover. A separate queue dealt with those whose duty-free spirits and cigarettes were indexed to the price of their excursion tickets.

A customs official at Dover said there had been several cars through the red lane have been laden with wine. We have had several with 500 or 600 bottles of wine each, and one party declared wine for which they paid more than £700 in France today.

Even at present rates of duty there were heavy bills to pay. One driver, writing a cheque for £215 to cover duty on 282 bottles, said: "The cheapest wine in France is little more than five francs a litre, under 50p. British duty and value-added tax alone, which is about £1 a litre, is twice the full retail price of the wine in France."

Electricians' union delegates challenged in another local Labour dispute

By Michael Horsnell

The struggle for control of the Labour Party in the constituencies has erupted into another acrimonious local dispute involving the activities of Mr Frank Chapple's union.

Amid left-wing claims at national level that the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications, and Plumbing Union has infiltrated 30 chosen constituencies, militants in Beckenham in Kent are trying to unseat the seven-man union delegation to the local management committee.

At the centre of this grassroots power struggle is Mr Ewen Fieake, the former local party secretary, who has been elected to the local management committee.

In his letter, Mr Fieake, a left-wing research officer for the Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staffs, queried whether the union's branches affiliated to Beckenham and other constituency parties really have the numbers claimed of people paying the required political levy.

Moderators who support the union's affiliations say the union is actually entitled to pine delegates under the party rules. They claim that more than 300 members of the Lewisham branch of the union live in Beckenham, entitling them to four, that more than 300 members of the Beckenham branch

also live in the constituency, entitling another four, and that "some" members of the Eltham branch of the union have similar residential qualifications, entitling them to at least one delegate.

Mr Fieake told me: "The NEC is looking into the matter because there seems to be a suggestion that the EETPU is acting outside the spirit of the rules in the way it has appointed delegates."

Mrs Pat Doe, the constituency agent, told me: "The electricians' delegates are properly nominated and elected and have been so for years. We have checked them out and there is nothing out of order."

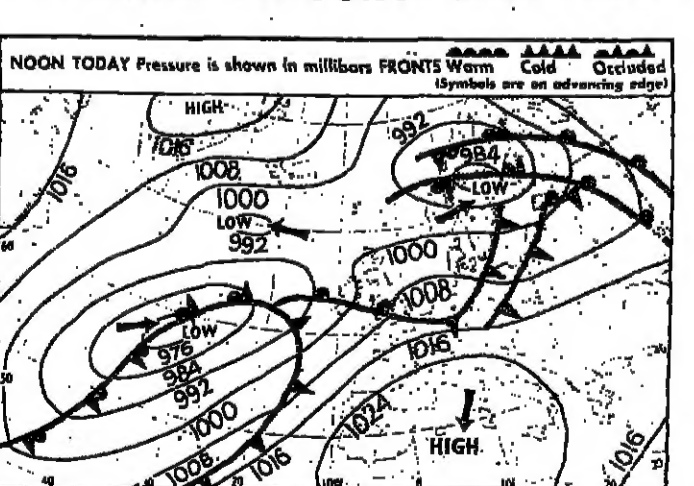
Inquiries by *The Times* suggest that all EETPU delegates to Beckenham have been properly nominated and elected within Labour Party rules.

Mr Alan Pickering, aged 32, research officer of the union who has represented Beckenham branch on the management committee for three years, said: "We have not even used our numerical strength to send all the delegates we are entitled to. These accusations of infiltration make me angry. The acid test of infiltration is how often you turn up for meetings and our delegates have a very good record."

Mr Fieake said that while it takes 50,000p that spending over four years, which the TUC wanted in one year, "it shows the real desperation that exists now in large sections of the business community".

He added: "When there is this degree of consensus between the two sides of industry, we really do have a right to ask exactly whose interests are served by the continuation of the Government's destructive policies—whose, except perhaps the ideologists in the Tory Cabinet?"

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 6.25 am
Sun sets: 5.55 pm
Moon rises: 8.15 am
Moon sets: 10.2 pm
First Quarter: March 13
Lighting up: 6.25 pm to 5.55 am
High water: London Bridge, 3.39 am, 7.6m; 4.07 pm, 7.6m. Avonmouth, 9.23 am, 14.2m; 9.39 pm, 12.59 pm, 6.8m. Hull, 8.13 am, 7.8m; 8.25 pm, 8.2m. Liverpool, 1.00 am, 9.7m; 1.17 pm, 10.0m. 1ft=3.2808ft.

England, Wales and Isle of Man: Cloudy, with rain or drizzle, heavy at times; wind SW fresh; max temp 11°C (52°F).

Lake District, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW and NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll: Sunny intervals and scattered showers, cloudy with more general rain later; wind mainly SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney and Shetland: Sunny intervals and scattered showers; wind W, fresh backing SE; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Continuing unsettled with rain at times; becoming a little less mild.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E) Wind mainly SW, strong; sea rough or very rough; max temp 10°C (50°F).

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, moderate or fresh; sea moderate becoming rough.

Saturday
London: Temp: max 6 am to 14°C (57°F); min 6 pm to 10°C (50°F). Humidity, 68 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm 0.15 in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm 100.5 millibars, rising.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max 6 am to 14°C (57°F); min 6 pm to 10°C (50°F). Humidity, 68 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm 0.15 in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm 100.5 millibars, rising.

Mr Prior gives assurance about economic expansion on eve of Budget

Continued from page 1

abroad which pushed up sterling.

Nonetheless, sharp deflation when unemployment is rising towards 3 million is going to provoke a flood of criticism. Ministers, however, will be dismayed if the Budget is put across as a further dose of deflation.

The Chancellor will not be too concerned about the failure to meet his monetary growth targets last year, but he will apparently deny that he is adding to deflation.

He will say that the measures

helping business and restraining public sector borrowing will be helping the supply side, and this is more important than stimulating or cutting demand.

Acknowledging the growing anxiety over unemployment, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment will seek to give equal assurance today that people through the recession, the Government has cut public spending and it is determined that it will not impair the economy's ability to expand in the future.

In a special message to the Conservative Political Centre, a

party body which is discussing unemployment at present, Mr Prior, who has been one of the cabinet ministers most concerned over the stringent effects of the Government's economic policy, strikes a note of optimism.

He will say that while the recession "has swollen government borrowing," the important point is that the Government has achieved significant reductions in the underlying levels of public spending and as the economy picks up, the fruits of our success will become more apparent.

Mr Prior is expected to add that this will be vital in enabling the private sector to respond effectively without the usual difficulty of the Government having piled on extra burdens.

A challenge to the Chancellor to begin "the long haul back" towards deflation was sounded yesterday by Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and chairman of the TUC economic committee.

Acknowledging the recovery package, proposed by the Confederation of British Industry,

Mr Bassett said that while it takes 50,000p that spending over four years, which the TUC wanted in one year, "it shows the real desperation that exists now in large sections of the business community".

He added: "When there is this degree of consensus between the two sides of industry, we really do have a right to ask exactly whose interests are served by the continuation of the Government's destructive policies—whose, except perhaps the ideologists in the Tory Cabinet?"

WEATHER RECORDS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; lg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud</
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